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After stormy, six-hour debate:

Government approves NIS 1b. public works package

By DAVID HARRIS

The cabinet last night approved the Treasury's NIS 1 billion economic growth proposals, after more than six hours of stormy debate.

Twelve voted in favor of the plan, with Nathan Sharansky, Yuli Edelstein, Eli Suissa and Avigdor Kahalani voting against and Eli Yishai abstaining.

Another meeting is planned to discuss setting unemployment-reduction targets, Edelstein's spokesman said after the meeting.

Under pressure from as many as half the ministers present, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted the Treasury spend five percent of the money on people — presumably for retraining — rather than spending all of the appropriation on infrastructure.

The bulk of the funds will go into road and rail improvements, with NIS 10 million going towards preparations for the influx of tourists expected in 2000.

The theme of the plan is improving infrastructure to increase economic growth and thus reduce unemployment, now standing at 8.3%.

The proposals include:

- Constructing new roads and upgrading existing highways throughout the country, principally in the area of development towns.

- Building new train stations along the Ayalon Highway, and rail lines between Lod and Rehovot and Tel Aviv and Beit Shemesh.

- Additional funds will be transferred to the Housing and

Construction Ministry for the development of housing projects in development towns and less-affluent inner-city areas.

The budget for these measures will be split equally between the current fiscal year and 1999.

The measures approved also included non-budgetary items: Legislation for separating water and sewerage activities from the municipalities will be speeded up; the government will remove the bureaucratic blocks preventing a NIS 3b.-plus expansion of the

Haifa and Ashdod ports; and rules concerning the employment of foreign workers will be tightened.

During the debate ahead of the decision, attention turned to the Bank of Israel's monetary policy.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom asked central bank Governor Jacob Frenkel to detail current interest rates. Frenkel said the real interest rate is presently 6.3% and the nominal rate is 11.9%.

The governor explained the difference between the two is the rate of inflation.

Shalom countered that currently inflation is running at close to zero and therefore real interest rates are around the 11% mark.

"This removes any chance of increasing growth and reducing unemployment," Shalom said, according to an aide.

Following questions from ministers, Netanyahu asked Frenkel to explain the rationale behind the high interest rates. Frenkel gave a lengthy reply.

"There was absolutely no tension between the prime minister

and the governor," a central bank official said, responding to media reports that Netanyahu expressed frustration at Frenkel's monetary policy and that the governor then decided not to answer the prime minister's question.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai attacked the plan. "This package, which comes two months before the annual program [the drawing up of next year's budget], will increase unemployment and will hit the weak in society," said Mordechai.

A-G asks to lift Deri's immunity

By DAN IZENBERG

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein yesterday asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to begin procedures for lifting the immunity of Shas leader Aryeh Deri, so that he can be put on trial on charges of fraud and breach of trust by a public servant.

If Deri's immunity is lifted, he will face trial on charges connected to his activities as director-general of the Interior Ministry and, subsequently, interior minister, between 1986 and 1990.

He is already on trial in Jerusalem District Court on criminal charges relating to acts committed as a private citizen; he is also due to face charges involving his role in the Bar-On Affair.

Deri told Army Radio he had turned over the indictment and Rubinstein's letter to his lawyers and would confer with them in the next few days.

"I believe I will be ready to make a statement by next week, when the Knesset House Committee is due to convene," he said.

He said he had not yet decided whether to ask the Knesset to allow him to waive his immunity.

The Justice Ministry yesterday published the indictment, which includes five charges, eight less than in the original indictment prepared by attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair in 1994.

Rubinstein explained that under the statute of limitations, he had no choice but to submit the indictment now. According to the law, charges cannot be pressed later than five years after the suspect's last interrogation. Deri was last questioned on the allegations regarding his public actions in August 1993, wrote Rubinstein in a cover letter, explaining his decision to ask the Knesset to lift Deri's immunity.

Rubinstein also wrote that he decided to file only five charges because of the time that has elapsed since Deri's alleged crimes and his concern that if he filed 13 charges, the trial would drag on for years, as has his current trial, which began in 1993 and is still far from over.

Deri is charged with illegally ordering local authorities to funnel money from the Interior Ministry to specific religious institutions of his choice.

In cases where local authority heads balked at doing Deri's bidding, he allegedly made a deal with them, whereby they served as a funnel for his institutions, while he gave them additional funds that they could allocate at their own discretion.

See DERI, Page 2



Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak (center) greets children during a visit to the settlement of Nili.

(Flash 90)

Barak: Settlements are here to stay

By SARAH HONIG

Beit El, Ofra, and other settlements "are here to stay forever," Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak declared yesterday.

He was speaking at the Beit El home of Yoel Tsur, whose wife and son were murdered in a drive-by shooting near the settlement in December 1996. He visited Tsur as part of a tour of five settlements in Judea and Samaria.

"From here, in Beit El, I want to send out a message to the people of Beit El and to all the citizens of the State of Israel: The Labor Party and I have clear red lines. We will remain in Beit El forever."

However, he quickly added that "just as Israelis will remain here in Beit El forever, so will the Arabs remain in Ramallah."

"To achieve personal security —

PM promises Har Homa homes before election, Page 2

and no one realizes better than Yoel what a horrendous price the lack of such security can exact — we need to separate the two populations. We need a physical separation from the Palestinians."

Barak said that Labor has a "set of red lines which it will under no circumstances cross... A united Jerusalem must remain under full and unequivocal Israeli sovereignty; most of the population of the settlements will remain under Israeli rule in large settlement blocs; under no circumstances will we return to the 1967 lines; and there will be no foreign army west of the Jordan River."

Barak had warm words for the settlers and the settlements.

"I came here to see how the settlements have developed. It is heartening to see that there is so much growth and progress. There are beautiful projects here — the beauty is not only in the

projects but is connected to the soul, to the soul of Israeli society."

Some residents suggested in jest that they would begin looking for a home for Barak in Beit El. They noted that neither Yitzhak Rabin or Shimon Peres had made comments like Barak's when they were prime minister.

But not everyone was pleased with Barak's remarks.

Peace Now issued a statement expressing "shock and dismay" at Barak's pronouncements. Political observers maintained that after Barak submitted a bill on Monday calling for the draft of haredi yeshiva students, he wanted to prove that he is not a radical left-winger.

Sharon snubs Netanyahu

Albright: No US ultimatum

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday denied the US is giving ultimatums over Middle East peace, but warned that Israel and the Palestinians must make hard decisions before the peace process collapses.

"We are not giving any ultimatums; we are not threatening any country's security... What we have especially been trying to do in recent weeks is to issue a wake-up call... Decide before the peace process collapses," she said in a speech to the National Press Club.

"Too many opportunities have been lost to heal old wounds," Albright said, in a speech that pledged US support for Israel would be unshakable even if her diplomatic effort failed. "Our commitment to Israel does not come with a time limit," she said.

Albright hastily scheduled the address after a Monday US deadline for Israeli acceptance of US peace proposals was ignored by Prime Minister Benjamin

of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

On Capitol Hill, though, Sen. John Ashcroft said it was Albright — not Netanyahu — who should reconsider.

"A two-week reprieve from the administration's railroading of Israel's foreign policy is needed," the Missouri Republican said.

Netanyahu's meeting with Albright is due to take place immediately after he arrives in Washington today. She delayed her scheduled departure for an overseas destination to be able to resume the dialogue that ended in deadlock last week in London.

Afterward, the prime minister is to meet with congressional leaders, address the American Jewish Committee, and attend AIPAC's 50th anniversary convention.

During a side trip to New York, he is to confer with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and pay his respects to Mayor Rudy Giuliani. While there, he also will review the 50th anniversary Salute to Israel parade.

In his verbal broadside against Netanyahu, Sharon said that "the heart of the problem is in the commitments made by the prime minister in the meetings he held since November 1997." Sharon contended that "several other ministers" share his feelings.

The solution, he went on, is to present these commitments to the cabinet, "and to conduct basic and comprehensive deliberations" to find a way out of the present "crisis." He accused Netanyahu of ignoring the January cabinet decision to hold such deliberations.

Steve Rodan adds: Palestinian Authority officials appeared anxious yesterday over the prospect of Washington accepting any new Israeli ideas that would differ with the plan for a 13.1 percent withdrawal.

PA negotiator Saeb Erekat said he has been assured by US officials that no new proposals are being considered. "The gap is not a Palestinian-Israeli gap, but a US-Israeli gap [in positions]," he said. "This room for maneuver should be ended."

Erekat criticized Netanyahu for refusing to budge from his offer of a 9 percent withdrawal, saying, "He is not the tough negotiator he sees himself as; he is a non-negotiator."

Palestinian Legislative Council member Marwan Kanafani, regarded as close to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, said he does not understand the reported Israeli proposal to withdraw from 9 percent and hand over to the US the additional 4 percent that Washington has proposed.

"Does it mean that the Americans will put rangers there or make a bird sanctuary? When Mr. Netanyahu has the answers, we will have a position on this."

Kanafani stressed that Arafat supports the US proposals in principle, rather than all of their details.

World fumes over India's nuclear tests

By JOHN CHALMERS

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India was buffeted by a storm of disgust and dismay from around the globe yesterday after its trio of nuclear tests, but New Delhi stood firm, saying national security comes first.

The United States, Japan, and Russia led the barrage of international condemnation, and China weighed in after a 24-hour silence with an expression of "grave concern." But India's government was apparently emboldened by sweeping domestic support for its sudden defiant step.

"Let the world know of India's capability," Science and Technology Minister Murli Manohar Joshi told a news conference. "People will realize India is a strong nation and cannot be

taken lightly."

New Delhi broke a self-imposed 24-year moratorium on nuclear testing on Monday with three desert blasts close to the border with Pakistan. Tested were a fission device, a low-yield device, and a much-bigger thermonuclear device.

India has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and in 1996 refused to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

India's arch-enemy, Pakistan, said it reserves the right to take "all appropriate measures for its security" and make its defense "impregnable."

China issued its first statement saying the test ran "against international trends" and was "detrimental to peace and stability in South Asia," state radio quoted

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao as saying.

Analysts say fear of Beijing rather than Islamabad was at the heart of New Delhi's move. The two nations fought a brief and

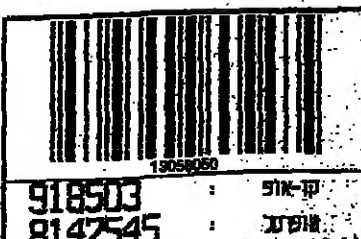
There goes the neighborhood, Page 6
India markets fear blow, Page 13

bloody war in 1962 and India's outspoken Defense Minister George Fernandes recently branded China "potential threat No. 1." Moscow also rapped its Cold War ally over the tests. The Interfax news agency quoted

President Boris Yeltsin as saying that "India has let us down" and calling for the world to apply diplomatic pressure on New Delhi to reverse its policy.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said President Bill Clinton was "deeply distressed" by the tests and a formal diplomatic protest would be lodged with New Delhi. State Department spokesman James Rubin called the tests a "very, very negative development" and said the US is exploring sanctions against India.

Japan, the only country ever to suffer an atomic attack, dished out some of the harshest criticism, saying Tokyo is considering punishing New Delhi with its own sanctions and that yen loans and aid grants could be frozen. Japan is India's largest foreign aid donor.



NEWS

in brief

Swiss Shoah fund solves US distribution problem

A Swiss fund to help needy victims of the Holocaust has resolved a disagreement over payments to US applicants, its president said yesterday. The fund's directors agreed on how to pay out a tranche of some 45 million Swiss francs in the United States, respected Swiss Jewish leader Rolf Bloch told reporters at Zurich airport. Applicants will submit a self-assessment form which will evaluate their need while respecting their dignity, he said after a fund meeting. Payments, made by check, should be completed within half a year, but the procedure will be reviewed if more than 50,000 people apply, he added. AP

German arms firm to pay Jewish forced laborers

A German defense contracting firm said yesterday that it will make payments to surviving Jewish women forced into labor at its munitions factory during the Nazi era. The Diehl company's wartime activities became an issue last year when objections were raised to making company chief, Karl Diehl, 90, an honorary citizen of Nuremberg.

Company spokesman Dirk-Michael Zahn said that "a sum" would be paid to surviving women who were taken from the concentration camp at Grossposen in what is now Poland and forced to work in two of Diehl's production plants. Zahn declined to say how many women would receive the lump-sum payment, or how much money would be involved. AP

Hizbullah wants dialogue with Americans

Hizbullah wants a dialogue with Americans and a better image in the West, a spokesman said yesterday. But the overture goes only so far. Better ties with the US government, which Hizbullah still regularly derides, are impossible as long as it supports Israel, said Nayef Kraim, the spokesman.

"I don't think there is the possibility for considering official relations with the United States of America," he said in an interview. "As for American society and the American people, there is no problem at all." AP

Hussein: Peace will advance despite obstacles

King Hussein said yesterday the peace process will advance despite the current stalemate. "It is imperative that righteousness will prevail and the peace process will advance despite all the obstacles in the path of a just and comprehensive peace," Hussein said.

Speaking at the inauguration of a dam in the Jordan Valley, the king praised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, saying his "position is very sound, constructive, and positive." Asked if he had a message for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hussein said: "I have talked to him so much in the past and, God willing, he will remember what I said in many occasions." AP

Mordechai, Shahak visit northern border

By DAVID RUDGE

The northern border and security zone were quiet yesterday, following Monday night's heavy Hizbullah bombardments Monday night.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited the area yesterday morning, including the area where several mortar rounds fell. They were briefed by senior officers in the region.

Two IDF soldiers who were hurt when one of the rounds exploded near their command car alongside the border fence, and are recovering in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The Hizbullah firing was believed to be in response to the wounding of two Lebanese civilians in Tibnit village, north of the

security zone, in South Lebanese Army shelling earlier Monday.

This followed an incident on Friday in which three civilians were wounded near Mansuri village by IDF and SLA shelling.

In both cases, the shelling was in response to mortar attacks which originated from the vicinity of the two villages in breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group convened at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday to discuss complaints by Israel and Lebanon.

Meanwhile, residents of Moshav Avivim, on the northern border, held a memorial service yesterday for the 12 people, eight children and four adults, who were murdered in a terrorist attack on a school bus 28 years ago.

PM promises homes on Har Homa by elections

By LIAT COLLINS

By the next general elections there will be houses on Har Homa, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told National Religious Party MKs yesterday, but he refused to give a firm date for starting the construction.

He reportedly said building could not start immediately because the timing had to be right and there are still small details to be finalized.

Some of the MKs - including Eli Gabai and Nissan Slomiansky - said they would absent themselves from no-confidence motions until the tenders for construction on Har Homa are issued.

"We have the impression you are making the building on the Har Homa conditional on the diplomatic process. You are stuttering over Jerusalem. We will be at Har Homa during no-confidence votes," Slomiansky told the prime minister.

NRP whip Shmaryahu Ben-Tsur also said Jerusalem "could not become a hostage of the diplomatic process."

He complained that the MKs are being updated on the progress of the negotiations.

"If the ministers are kept in the dark, we, the MKs, are in complete darkness," he said.

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom warned that the silence of the NRP MKs should not mislead the prime minister.

"We will not be able to accept any harm to settlements. That's a red line for us. We won't be able to live with this, even to just one settlement," he said.

The prime minister said he would stand firm on the principle of reciprocity and demand the Palestinians abide by their commitments in full before any redeployment.

The economic situation was also discussed in the meeting. Netanyahu said an improvement would be felt in the unemployment statistics in the coming months, as workers are trained to move into high-tech jobs.

Meanwhile, Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman, who heads the Forum of Moderates in the coalition, sent a letter to the prime minister signed by other forum members calling on him to carry out the second further redeployment in accordance with Israel's security needs.

PA asks Israelis to stay out of its areas during protest march

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has asked Israelis not to enter its territories starting today, as tension mounts on the eve of a massive protest march that is expected to turn violent.

PA officials have told their Israeli counterparts not to admit Israeli peace groups that had planned to visit Area A starting today.

The PA officials said they fear that radical Palestinians would attack an Israeli group.

The request comes as Israeli

defense officials predict that the PA mass march to commemorate what it terms "the disaster" of an independent Jewish state will result in violent Palestinian clashes with the IDF throughout the territories tomorrow.

"We definitely expect unrest and that there will be violence in most places throughout the territories," a defense official said. "We hope the PA can control the situation."

Officials said the PA is whipping up anti-Israeli sentiment by its appeals for Palestinians to join what is being called the "march of the million."

The officials said PA radio and television, as well as banners in the streets of Palestinian cities, are urging resistance against Israeli government policies and Jewish settlements.

The officials point to a demonstration earlier this week in Dehaishe refugee camp, during which protesters threatened Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The message is clear," an official said. "The PA is encouraging violence. We know that there will be tension. We just hope it won't destroy what we are trying to work for in terms of easing restrictions

on Palestinians."

The Defense Ministry announced yesterday that 500 more PA employees will be allowed to enter Israel in order to travel between Gaza and the West Bank, making the total number 2,000.

Defense sources said the request came from the PA, which explained that by allowing more of its employees freedom of movement it can reduce duplication of positions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Orr, the ministry's coordinator in the territories met yesterday with representatives

of the International Labor Organization, who are examining Israeli treatment of Palestinian laborers.

Previous ILO reports on Israel were so unbalanced, officials said, that this year the Foreign Ministry has refused to meet with the ILO delegation.

Orr denied ILO charges, relayed by the PA, that Israel encourages the employment of Palestinian youngsters. He said that Israel is always being urged to allow young Palestinians to work, but limits its permission to those 16 and over.



How much am I bid?

A Sotheby's auctioneer points to an original front page of the May 16, 1948, 'Palestine Post' declaring the birth of Israel. It was auctioned off last night with two other papers from that day for \$850. The Tel Aviv sale included 'Yom Hamedina,' the paper issued jointly by all the Hebrew newspapers that day. That paper, in a lot with six other papers from that weekend, was listed in the catalog for \$1,500-\$2,000; it sold for \$2,600.

(The: Eli Weisberger; Photo: Porel Veltberg/Israel Sun)

Women soldiers barred from singing at inauguration

By LIAT COLLINS

A new artistic scandal has developed, this time surrounding the inauguration of the president at the Knesset next Monday.

According to MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui), female soldiers who are part of a vocal ensemble from the IDF's Education Corps have been banned from appearing at the Knesset plenum ceremony to avoid offending the sensibilities of religious MKs. The religious MKs were not involved in the decision.

Poraz said the ensemble - comprising three women soldiers and one male - had appeared at an official ceremony on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day. After the ceremony, officials from Beit Hanassi apparently asked the ensemble to appear at the ceremony following the inauguration and the IDF agreed.

At a later stage, according to Poraz, Beit Hanassi asked that only the male soldier appear, because the group would be performing in front of religious people.

Poraz said that since the Knesset ceremony is not a religious event, it is unreasonable to remove the women soldiers. "It's a serious

incident with a heavy element of religious coercion," Poraz said.

He told Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon that, "As the person responsible for events in the Knesset, I'm asking you to ensure that the full vocal ensemble including the women soldiers appear."

Knesset spokesman Giora Pardes said in response that the artistic program had been decided by the IDF and Beit Hanassi. However, he noted that in the past only men had appeared at such events.

"The guiding rule is not to deviate from what was accepted in the past," he said.

Beit Hanassi Director-General Arye Shumer said the Knesset had made it clear that in the past no women singers had appeared in the plenum.

During the plenum ceremony one song - "Lach Yerushalayim (To You, Jerusalem)" - is scheduled to be sung by the male singer, accompanied by a (female) keyboard player. Following the inauguration, at a reception in the Knesset's Chagall Hall, the full ensemble is to appear - including the women soldiers - with a 60-piece IDF orchestra. Some 1,200 people have been invited to attend.

DERI

Continued from Page 1

Ben-Yair, who prepared the original indictment, wrote that the local authorities, especially those deeply in debt, had no choice but to go along with Deri because they were dependent on his ministry for funds to cover their deficits and to pay for development and special projects.

According to the indictment, Deri channeled almost all of the money to Sephardi-haredi institutions, and, in the worst cases, those run by his friends and associates or - in one case - his family.

The specific acts of breach of trust include allocating money to

specific projects, which is not the prerogative of the Interior Ministry, violating regulations governing the allocation of grants, and distributing funds without criteria and on the basis of personal inclination.

The specific cases included in Rubinstein's indictment include Kollel Yagel Ya'acov-Yismah Yisrael in Beersheba, the municipalities of Zichron Ya'acov and Netanya, the Rehavam Local Council, and the Kol Yehuda non-profit organization.

In an exchange of correspondence with Ben-Yair last year, Deri wrote that he had acted to redress past discrimination "suffered by those who had been far from the corridors of power."

Mofaz approved as CGS

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

The cabinet voted unanimously yesterday to approve Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz as the next IDF chief of general staff.

The vote came after Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai explained to the ministers that his decision not to appoint Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i to the post was made according to personal and not personal reasons.

Mordechai even praised Vilna'i, saying he hopes Vilna'i will "continue filling important roles for the nation and the state."

Mofaz, 50, is to take over from Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak on July 9 and will be then promoted to lieutenant-general. He will be the IDF's 16th chief of general staff.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was convinced that Mofaz could be an "excellent" IDF chief of general staff, "adding it was clear he had to give extra weight to the recommendation of his defense minister. He particularly noted Mofaz's reputation for being cool-headed both as a commander and on the battlefield."

Mordechai told the cabinet that he based his decision on four factors: the candidates' character and leadership abilities, their professional ability to command a modern army, the quality of their decisions and the ability to stand firm for the needs of the IDF while retaining a national perspective.

Mordechai rejected reports that he had never even considered Vilna'i, a rival from his own career in the military, for the post.

"There were no personal considerations in my decision," Mordechai said. "I have a lot of respect for Maj.-Gen. Vilna'i. But my decision to recommend Shaul Mofaz to the cabinet as CGS was made with integrity... In my opinion he is worthy of the task."

"Everything was done according to the proper procedures,"

Mordechai added.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who is currently on an official visit to Japan and Korea, sent a letter stating that he was against appointing Mofaz.

Eitan, a former chief of general staff himself, had said he had favored appointing former OC Northern Command Yossi Peled as chief of general staff and if not him, then Vilna'i. Since he was not present he was not able to vote.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who are also abroad, left letters saying they

backed Mofaz.

Vilna'i, who has refrained from speaking to the press the past few days, is expected to retire. There has been some speculation that Vilna'i could be asked to head the General Security Service when Ami Ayalon retires next year.

Since the announcement Sunday of his impending appointment, Mofaz has kept a low profile. He spoke briefly on Monday at a gathering of IDF veteran commanders from the War of Independence.

But most of his time has been spent holding consultations on the numerous expected appointments to the General Staff.

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The South African Zionist Federation and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev RECEPTION IN HONOR OF SOLLY YELLIN and screening of the dramatic film on his efforts to smuggle Torah scrolls out of Poland. Lecture by Dr. Ted Frank, Ben-Gurion University: "Vilna at the Brink of the Holocaust" Wednesday, May 13, at 8 p.m. Auditorium of the Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv. To confirm participation, call the Federation 03-629-0131

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HELEN STOLLMAN

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, May 13, at 6 p.m. at Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

Deeply mourned by: her children:

Dr. Gene Stollman
Norma Arbit
and families.

Shiva at 5 Bialik St., Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem

02-673-0117

Four civil marriage bills introduced

By LIAT COLLINS

In another sign of the change in religious-secular relations, four bills proposing civil marriages have been submitted to the Knesset.

The bills were filed by Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), Roman Brofman (Yisrael Ba'aliya), and a joint one by Chazan and Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

Chazan yesterday held a gathering in the Knesset on the subject. She said there has been a drop in the number of couples marrying through the rabbinate and a rise in those marrying abroad.

She said that the numbers of those marrying via the rabbinate had not changed in the past 20 years although the Jewish population had doubled. In 1974, 28,500 couples married via the rabbinate and in 1996, 27,000.

She said that in the 1990s, some 2,000-3,000 couples had married abroad. Non-official estimates are triple this.

"The public is voting with its feet. The time has come to recognize that a new reality has been created in Israel in which couples prefer to marry not using the rabbinate," Chazan said.

The bill she submitted would allow several different channels for marriage, including religious and civil options. She admitted the

bill had little chance of passing, but said Brofman's similar proposal might pass.

Under his bill, only those who are unable to marry according to the rabbinate — such as a kohen and a divorced woman or those not recognized as Jews — would have the alternative of civil marriage, which would be recognized by the Interior Ministry.

Gozansky's bill would recognize civil marriages.

Under the radical bill Chazan submitted with Zucker, all couples who intend having children would be registered with the family court. All couples would be obliged to register the marriage in the civil system and a couple could choose whether or not to have a religious ceremony in addition to the civil procedure.

The bill proposes the only way to end a marriage would be in the family court, even if the marriage had been carried out in a religious ceremony. Those married in a religious service would also have the right to terminate the marriage in a rabbinic court.

One of the participants at the gathering, Sharon Dolev, related how she had a civil ceremony and did not register with the Interior Ministry as an act of protest, with the knowledge that her rights are protected under the laws on common-law wives.



Transplant patients recovering

Relatives watch over the beds of Suhm Amache (right) and Yosef Tzilag after their kidney transplants at Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus yesterday. The cross-transplants from live donors — in which Tzilag, 64, of Jerusalem, and Amache, of Jisr-e-Zarka, each received a kidney from the other's spouse — were the first in the world regulated and supervised by a government. Both were reported fully conscious and in good condition, as were donors Vicky Tzilag and Youssef Amache.

(Text: Judy Siegel; Photo: Yael Sonek/Israel Sun)

Jordanian physiotherapists attend course in Ra'anana

By JUDY SIEGEL

Going against the wave of hostility to the Israeli establishment among professional groups in their country, seven physiotherapists from Jordan have spent two days with seven Israeli counterparts learning advanced techniques at the Beit Loewinstein Rehabilitation Hospital in Ra'anana.

This first program of its kind was financed by the Foreign Ministry's Mashav (international cooperation) department, along with the Union of Physiotherapists in the Histadrut.

"Rehabilitation is an area in which we care for the health of children and adults, and we also want to promote peace and dialogue," explained Leah Sawalha, a 28-year-old physiotherapist from Amman, who is director of the Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped. The daughter of an American mother, she spent 15 years in California.

"This is just the beginning," she said. "We hope that information on physiotherapy can be exchanged between us and that Israeli professionals can come to Amman. It's so close, it would be a shame not to come."

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGIN

A capital encounter

According to Roman Gurevitch in *Vesti*, the visit to Jerusalem of Moscow mayor Yuri Lushkov in honor of the jubilee was an important demonstration of increasingly good relations between the two cities.

Lushkov's entourage consisted of two "planeloads" of prominent Russian citizens in the fields of culture and commerce. Gurevitch stressed that despite the Kremlin's policy not to acknowledge Jerusalem as the nation's capital, Lushkov regards the Holy City as the capital of Israel. "The mayor of one of the greatest cities in the world courageously and decisively visited our capital," said Gurevitch.

In *Vremya*, Arcady Leonidov noted that the mass pilgrimage to Jerusalem of Russian Christians in the year 2000 was the main topic of Lushkov's discussions with Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert. From Russia alone, over one million pilgrims are expected, which will create major security problems.

During Lushkov's visit, Moscow Square was opened in Jerusalem near the Russian Compound, and an agreement was signed to establish a Jerusalem Square in Moscow. Leonidov cited Lushkov's excitement about the fact that "Jerusalem manages to be a city where different faiths are practiced together in peace."

Scientific ally

"Some 85,000 high-level professionals can turn Israel into a country of prosperity. The government is overlooking a great potential by not availing itself of their knowledge and experience," said Alexander Berman, vice-president of the Union of Immigrant Scientists, during an interview with Alexander Prilutsky in *Vesti*.

A large group of scientists and engineers demonstrated in front of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, demanding that the government pay immediate attention to the problems of tens of thousands of specialists who came with the aliya of the 1990s.

Berman criticized the govern-

ment's economic policy of developing infrastructure and building highways and railroads instead of allowing more investments in hi-tech development and creating more jobs for scientists and engineers.

Their main demand is that their professional status be acknowledged as equal to that of tenured research workers. At present, those who are employed are under constant threat of being fired, and their salary is half that of their tenured counterparts. The demonstrators will continue their protests, which will culminate with a mass demonstration in front of the Knesset.

In *Nashe Strana*, Dr. Boris Korsch wrote that according to the Minister of Absorption, "employment has become the ministry's first priority."

One of the obstacles to employing these newly arrived professionals, Korsch said, is tenure, which reduces employee motivation and impedes staff turnover. Other obstacles are high taxation and monopolization.

Long-term unemployment, he pointed out, causes professionals to lose their qualifications and creates pessimism. "If Israel cannot absorb scientists and engineers, it is better to honestly accept it, stop aliya temporarily, and use the money from the Jewish Agency to develop hi-tech," he suggested.

On the other hand, Yefim Loyevsky reported in *Vesti* that new immigrants have projects on exhibit at Investech '98 in Washington. Among the 90 Israeli hi-tech companies represented there are dozens of projects which were created by scientists and engineers from the former USSR.

Victory Day

May 9, Victory Day, is the most widely celebrated Russian holiday, commemorating the Soviet victory over the Nazis in 1945. "The defeat of Nazi Germany became the cornerstone of creating the Jewish State," said Larissa Gerstein, a member of the Jerusalem Council, in an interview with Roman Gurevitch in *Vesti*. In the war against Hitler, 500,000 Jews fought; 200,000 of them were killed.

The mass wave of aliya from Russia brought the spirit of this holiday to Israel, noted Gurevitch.

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FM: Croatia ready for cooperation with Israel

By STEVE RODAN

Croatia, completing the stabilization of its economy and government, is ready for cooperation with Israel in a host of fields, Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said yesterday.

In an interview, Granic said Zagreb's privatization program now enables cooperation with Israel. "Now is a very good time for investment and joint ventures, especially in tourism, food processing, shipbuilding, hi-tech, and defense," he said. "As you can see there are many different fields."

He said Israel and Croatia signed three different agreements and plan to sign two others, on protection of investment and economic cooperation.

Granic, who is also deputy prime minister, did not want to detail the prospects for defense cooperation, but he confirmed they were discussed with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday. He said such cooperation could include industrial projects and consultations on counter-terrorism and law enforcement.

He acknowledged the similarity between Israel's efforts to control its borders and those of Croatia, which has been cracking down on smuggling from neighboring Bosnia.

Granic pointed to the US involvement with Croatia's military, helping restructure the army and providing it with training and education in an effort to help it reach NATO standards.

He said his country has "complex relations" with Washington. He said the differences between the two governments include the return of Serbian refugees to Croatia and the implementation of the Dayton peace process.

Granic said Zagreb is closely monitoring developments in Bosnia. He said Bosnia contains many advocates of a fundamentalist Islamic state.

"On the Muslim side, there are people who are European-oriented," he said. "And there are people who are fundamentalist-orientation with connection to radical Islamic states. And definitely, if

Croats continue to leave Bosnia, the situation in Bosnia will quickly deteriorate. Bosnian Croats are absolutely necessary to remain in Bosnia as a factor of stability and the prevention of an Islamic state."

He reiterated that Croatia plans to prosecute Dinko Sakic for war crimes in World War II. Zagreb has submitted a request for Sakic's extradition from Argentina. Sakic was a commander of the Ustaša (Croatian fascist party) concentration camp at Jasenovac, where tens of thousands of Jews were killed.

"Croatia will organize a public and transparent trial on the highest European standards," he said. "We are ready to cooperate with all

countries."

Granic acknowledged that the Sakic trial will spark controversy in Croatia, as many citizens con-

tinue to harbor pro-Ustaša sentiments. But, he said, "the people who have Ustaša sentiments are a strong minority in Croatia and in

our parliament. The right-wing parties have four out of 127 in the lower house and none in the upper house."

Don't greet Croatian FM, Beilin tells Tichon

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) yesterday called on Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to refrain from greeting Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic in the Knesset plenum.

"The diplomatic relations between Israel and Croatia were born in sin," Beilin said. "The Jewish state cannot have diplomatic relations with a country headed by [President Franjo] Tudjman, a Holocaust denier who never took back his accusations that the Jews made the Holocaust up. Don't add to the sin."

Tichon, however, told the visitor: "It is no secret that although Israel recognized Croatia six years ago, there was a dark shadow in our relations with the young state which was in the past part of Yugoslavia. I won't hide the fact that we avoided diplomatic relations because of the difficult things said about the Jewish people, victims of the Holocaust, in President Tudjman's book."

"I hope the visit by Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, sitting in the visitors' gallery along with a delegation of his countrymen, will provide a new layer in the relationship both sides want to repair."

Kahalani plans road humps near Green Line to reduce car theft

By LIAT COLLINS

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday he would ask the cabinet to approve a NIS 20 million plan to place road humps along an 80 km strip adjacent to the autonomous areas to help prevent car thefts.

Speaking before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Kahalani, Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk and other security officials reported an increase in car thefts since the Oslo Agreements. This is particularly evident from Israel to Judea and Samaria, leading one official to joke that cooperation among criminals is almost the only kind between Palestinians and Israelis.

An average of more than 4,200 vehicles a month were stolen during 1997.

A representative of the IDF's Planning Branch reportedly presented a plan for physically separating Israel from the autonomous areas, including a security fence and minefields, for an estimated cost of over NIS 1 billion. The Internal Security Ministry has not accepted this plan, both because of the cost and the political implications of treating the autonomous areas as a separate state.

Kahalani also reportedly has a plan for a security fence and mined area along the Green Line, but said he is not sure the government would approve it.

MKs heard that since the begin-

ning of this year, when the police began raiding the "chop shops" in which stolen cars are stripped for parts in the autonomous areas, car thefts have dropped by 50 a day.

Such operations require coordination with the IDF, as the Israel Police cannot operate in the autonomous areas. He said there had been 23 raids in the first four months of the year, in which 279 vehicles had been recovered and 350 people arrested.

Some of the raids also uncovered ammunition.

An official reportedly said there is no cooperation with the Palestinian Police in Area B regions despite the Oslo Agreement and that in 1997 the Palestinian Police returned to Israel only 600 stolen vehicles.

There has also been a rise of 60,000 cases of property theft from agricultural settlements over the past four years.

Wilk said most stolen cars are taken to Judea and Samaria, because it is more difficult to take one into Gaza, which is more closed off.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor) favored separating Israel from the territories and said only a diplomatic solution could help.

MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) accused Kahalani, as leader of The Third Way Party, of hypocrisy and said the source of the problem is the Palestinian towns which have become sanctuaries for criminals since the Oslo Agreements.

A-G: Jewish lawlessness down in territories

By DAN IZENBERG

The law enforcement regulations imposed upon settlers and Jewish visitors to the West Bank after the Shamgar Commission report on the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin have reduced lawlessness in the territories, but not to the level that exists inside Israel, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

"There is still insufficient law enforcement in the territories, especially when it comes to the land," said Rubinstein, referring to attempts on the part of settlers to seize land illegally.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP) asked Rubinstein to explain the classified regulations, charging that they discriminated against the settlers and stigmatized them as lawbreakers.

"The provision allowing [settlers] to be detained without having to give cause and without a time limit is clearly discriminatory," said Porat.

"The fact is that every soldier who is sent to serve in Judea and Samaria must study the regula-

tions and cannot help but get the impression that all settlers are lawless."

Porat called on Rubinstein to suspend the regulations until he completes the process of reviewing and revising them. He and the other members of the committee also called on Rubinstein to publish them.

Rubinstein said that the public reaction to the regulations was exaggerated. The reason they had not been published is because they contain operational details which the police insist cannot be revealed, he explained. Furthermore, since revisions are to be made, there is no point in publishing the regulations now.

He also explained that the main element in the regulations is the transfer of law enforcement responsibility in the territories from the army to the police.

Yossi Beilin (Labor) complained that Porat is turning the committee into a committee on settler affairs. He charged that each day Porat brought in another group of settlers and is trying to exploit the committee in his battle against government policy.

Cooler weather unlikely to dampen Lag Ba'omer

By DAVID RUDGE

Tens of thousands of people are expected to converge on Mt. Meron today and tomorrow for the traditional Lag Ba'omer celebrations. Extra police will be on duty to maintain security and also direct traffic.

The celebrations will begin later this afternoon with the transfer of an ancient Torah scroll from Beit Abu in Safed to the synagogue on Mt. Meron near the tomb of the sage Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai. It will be the 165th consecutive year that the ceremony of carrying the Torah, which itself has been handed down from generation to generation in the same family, is held.

The arrival of the Torah scroll on Mt. Meron, after the traditional parade through the streets of Safed, will mark the beginning of Lag Ba'omer celebrations.

The possibility of light rain and cooler-than-average temperatures

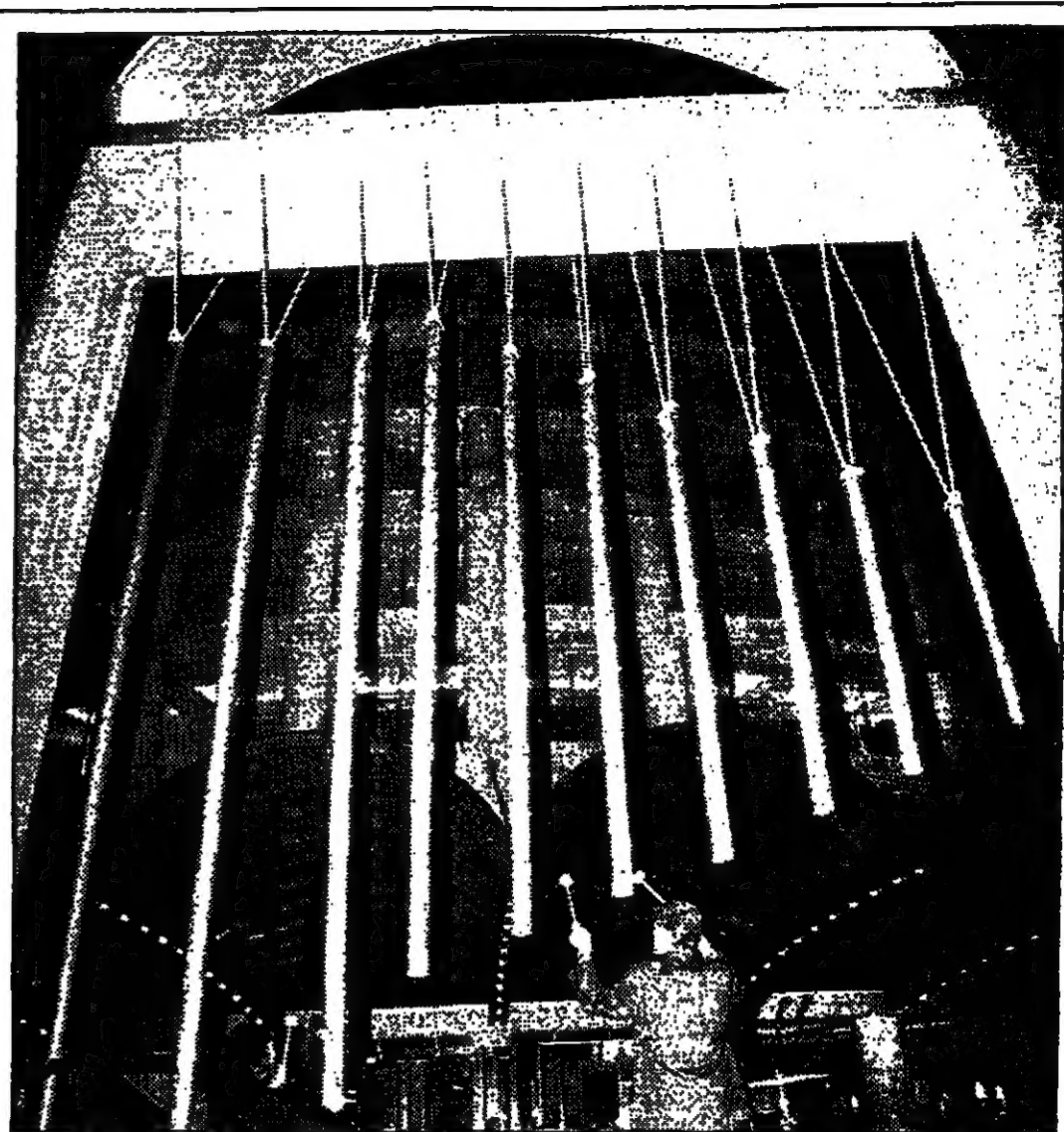
are unlikely to deter the festivities. In previous years, between 150,000 to 200,000 people have attended the celebrations on Mt. Meron.

Fire brigade chiefs have issued warnings to the public, and especially youngsters, to take extra care around bonfires and to ensure that they are properly extinguished afterwards.

Precautions include not lighting fires near trees, buildings, or any other places where flames might spread, and ensuring that water or other materials to douse flames are nearby in case fires get out of control.

The fire brigade has also issued warnings to youngsters not to play with firecrackers or other fireworks, which could cause serious injuries.

Judy Siegel adds: Dr. Shoshana Steinber of Kupat Holim Clalit's child health center has warned that breathing in a lot of smoke from a bonfire or a charcoal barbecue can harm children's lungs.



Ringing in the new

Musicians sound giant chimes last night at the festive opening of the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel. (Ariel Hershkovitski)

Itzik complains about opposition MKs accompanying ministers abroad

By LIAT COLLINS

Ministers on official trips abroad are being accompanied by opposition MKs, apparently in part because it means they are paired off and need not return for sudden, important Knesset votes.

The issue was raised this week by MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) who claimed that on their return, the MKs are hesitant about criticizing the ministers who were their travel partners.

The ministries usually fund the

visit of the opposition MK.

Currently, Communications Minister Limor Livnat is in Australia with Labor's Ophir Pines and Health Minister Yehoshua Matza in Switzerland with Labor's Ephraim Oshaya. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was accompanied by Yona Yahav (Labor) on a recent visit to the US.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt noted that this is not a new phenomenon and that those who travel are the opposition MKs responsible for the same field as the minister.

"This is a democracy: once we go as opposition members and once as coalition. There is no reason why an MK should not learn an issue he deals with and it causes no harm to show a united face abroad," he said.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said each trip should be examined to see whether or not public funds are involved.

Speaker Dan Tichon said he had forwarded the matter to the Ethics Committee for examination and to determine guidelines. He also noted it is not new. On one such trip former leader Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni, then communications minister, was accompanied to the Far East by Livnat, then an opposition MK.

He also noted that the opposition had more to lose by such journeys, as it reduced its chances of having the necessary 61 votes to topple the government in a no-confidence motion.

Ethics Committee chairman Yehuda Lankri (Geshet) said the committee would meet next week to discuss the matter and would probably decide that such a joint trip requires permission from the committee. He said that currently any appointment of an MK by a minister requires the Ethics Committee's approval.

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said the practice has existed for many years, including under Labor governments. She said it was not related to pairing off for votes, as ministers absent on an official visit are automatically matched with an opposition MK who is absent for the vote.

Oshaya told Israel Radio that those who complained are motivated by jealousy. "They would do the same if they could," he said. He said he would continue to praise and criticize Matza as he sees fit.

Pines issued a press release from Australia saying the trip is important and would not affect his future criticism of Livnat. He said the trip was funded by the Australian-Israeli Chamber of Commerce which considered it worthy to include an opposition MK in meetings with the Australian premier and foreign minister to hear the opposition's views.

He said he had also met with members of the Jewish community and victims of the Maccabiah disaster.

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Gov't statement first step on road to Pollard release

Israel's acknowledgement that Jonathan Pollard was an authorized Israeli agent - rather than a volunteer in a rogue operation - is the first step in what could be a complicated effort to secure his release.

The next step is for negotiations between Israel and the US on Washington's demands for Pollard's release.

The talks could begin as early as today, when cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, who is accompanying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, arrives in Washington.

Until now, the Clinton administration has refused to even consider any of Israel's appeals for Pollard's release. The White House, directed by the American intelligence community, first insisted on a clear statement of Israeli responsibility and full cooperation in examining what intelligence documents Pollard handed over to Israel.

Monday night's communique by the Prime Minister's Office did not use language of the past - that Pollard was employed in a rogue operation of which the Israeli government was not aware.

It also identified Pollard as an agent, rather than someone who volunteered information on an ad hoc basis.

"Until the government came clean with the truth, there was no chance of freeing Pollard," his attorney Larry Dub said.

The communique was a victory for Naveh over Defense Ministry officials, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Several weeks ago, the Prime Minister's Office was about to release another statement that fudged the issue of Pollard's handlers and was merely limited to an Israeli appeal for his release on humanitarian grounds.

Pollard opposed that statement so vociferously that Naveh did not release it. Instead, for the next several

weeks, he and other officials drafted numerous texts that would satisfy the US demand that Israel admit complicity. Sources said virtually every word was examined and numerous drafts were written until a committee of five ministers received the final text.

They said Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, and Communications Minister Limor Livnat voted for the text. The only dissenting vote was cast by Mordechai.

But the communique opens a new set of difficulties. Sources expect Israel and the US to engage in secret and intense negotiations over Pollard's release.

The US set of demands is expected to be long and will clearly include the return of all the documents Pollard, then an analyst in US Naval Intelligence, gave Jerusalem before his arrest in 1985.

The FBI believes it has virtually a complete list of the documents. Pollard, who has a photographic memory, underwent 52 polygraph tests after his arrest and is said to have told his interrogators all he knows.

Other US demands will be renewed commitments that Israel not spy on the US or use American citizens for espionage operations.

American officials are expected to demand strict limitations on Pollard once he is freed.

But the overriding sentiment now is that Washington wants to solve the Pollard problem. He has been in jail since 1985, his intelligence information is clearly dated and, most of all, American Jewish leaders want Pollard freed.

The assessment is that Clinton might release him as a gesture to help Vice President Al Gore win Jewish support for his presidential campaign in 2000.

Pollard: Admission brings honor to nation

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The cabinet's decision to publicly recognize Jonathan Pollard as an Israeli agent was welcomed with "relief and gratitude" yesterday by the American-born spy, who has been imprisoned for the past 13 years, but drew criticism and condemnation from the Labor Party's Yossi Beilin.

"This step encourages me to believe that the government will now do whatever is necessary to bring this agent home," Pollard said in a statement transmitted from Bumer Federal Correctional Institution in North Carolina. His words were conveyed by his wife, Esther, to the international news media from her home in Toronto.

Beilin - whose fellow Laborites, the late prime minister Yitzhak

Rabin and ex-prime minister Shimon Peres, approved Pollard's mission and authorized the defunct scientific liaison office to handle and direct him - charged that the government acted "irresponsibly." He termed the latest move in the Pollard saga as evidence of the government's chaotic conduct of matters of state.

Pollard was euphoric in his praise, however. "It brings honor to the government and the nation," he said. "It reassures our people that the state will honor its obligation and protect and defend all who serve it."

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh is scheduled to visit Pollard on Friday. He will discuss the government's diplomatic efforts to win a pardon from President Bill Clinton as well as other actions

being taken at the official level to convince the American authorities that the life sentence meted out in his case was excessive and unwarranted.

Pollard evidently is aware of the burgeoning campaign to get him out from behind bars, a campaign which has won the endorsement of major figures in the American Jewish community, among them Rabbi Alexander Schindler, a leading Reform rabbi and former president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"My wife, Esther, joins me in expressing our appreciation and thanks to all our family and friends, here in Israel and around the world, who welcome this event as the beginning of the end of our ordeal," Pollard said.



A kiss from Dana International

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav congratulates singer Dana International in his Knesset office yesterday, after presenting her with a tourism award. Katsav said he hopes visitors will flock to Jerusalem for next year's Eurovision Song Contest. International, who was dogged by journalists throughout her visit to the capital, suggested Tel Aviv could also be a suitable venue.

(Brian Bender)

MKs call for action against software piracy

By JUDY SIEGEL

Sixty-nine percent of all personal computer programs used here are illegal copies, but users of pirated software have never been brought to court, and sellers of counterfeit diskettes and CD-ROMs have only rarely, if ever, been prosecuted.

This was disclosed by lawyer Hadar Weizman, a representative of BSA - the international organization that fights pirated software - at a meeting of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee.

Committee chairman MK Dalia Itzik said the situation, as reported by software experts, was depressing, as Israel has become one of the leading software counterfeiters in the world.

She said that not only are the laws against counterfeiting unsuited to dealing with high-tech thievery, but worse they were not being enforced and the schools and other public authorities were not educating against it.

Labor backs Sheerit for Jerusalem mayor

By ELLI WOHLGELERWTER

The Labor Party has thrown its support behind One Jerusalem candidate Shimon Sheerit in the race for mayor of Jerusalem.

Labor leader Ehud Barak announced the decision in Jerusalem on Monday night at a party caucus meeting, attended by Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Uzi Bar-

am, two previously mentioned possible candidates. Both spoke in favor of Sheerit at the meeting.

Sheerit said this would set the stage for a victory in the November elections against Likud incumbent Ehud Olmert and his hard coalition partners.

His candidacy, Sheerit said, would "help us join together the Zionist civil society of Jerusalem

to combine forces to beat the non-Zionist hardi forces that have begun to rule Jerusalem."

"No matter who is the mayor, the people who are running Jerusalem today are (Deputy Mayor Haim) Miller and his partners."

Sheerit, who first announced his candidacy in January as the representative of One Jerusalem, the party of former mayor Teddy

Kollek, said the hardi coalition partners of Likud have been exercising cultural and religious censorship in the city. They have created a "city that is stifling the freedom of artistic creation," he said.

Likud officials, especially Olmert, have said in the past that they are confident of victory regardless of the candidate that One Jerusalem chooses.

Gov't seeks to keep lid on Bassiouny allegations

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Open court hearings against Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, who is charged with sexual assault of a belly dancer, could damage Israel's relations with Egypt and endanger human life, according to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein.

Rubinstein yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to revoke a previous decision given by Magistrate Court President Dan Arbel lifting the ban on publication about the affair.

Bassiouny is facing a civil suit from belly

dancer Shlomit Shalom for sexual assault, which allegedly took place when the two of them were alone in a Ramat Gan apartment last summer. The flat belongs to an Israeli friend of the ambassador.

Rubinstein said the in the petition that there is "profound fear that the continued publications, especially of the court debates, could very probably damage Israel's diplomatic relations with Egypt and even endanger human life."

Rubinstein based his argument on a letter by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eltan Bentsur. The latter wrote that publishing details

of the courtroom debates might be exploited by elements interested in sabotaging Israel's diplomatic relations with Egypt.

The interest of avoiding damage to foreign relations should take precedence over the interest of the openness of the debate, Rubinstein argued.

Rubinstein also asked for a delay in implementing Arbel's decision until the hearings on this issue. He asked that these be held behind closed doors. This would enable the court to hear a full presentation of the evidence of damage which might be caused to Israel's foreign relations.

NEWS

in brief

Bid to arrest Klinghoffer's killer

Attorney Nitzana Darshan-Leitner yesterday asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to issue an arrest warrant against Mohammed Abbas, who was convicted in Italy of the murder of wheelchair-bound American tourist Leon Klinghoffer during the PLO's 1985 hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship. Darshan-Leitner asked that the warrant be posted at all crossing points with the Palestinian-controlled territories, since Abbas is reportedly in the Gaza Strip and might try to flee. She noted he has previously escaped from Italy to Yugoslavia and from Gaza to Iraq, after the US Senate demanded his extradition in 1996. The attorney has also filed a petition to the High Court of Justice seeking a warrant for Abbas's arrest. *lim*

Lynn proposed as Likud candidate for TA mayor

Former MKs Moshe Nisim and Sarah Doron, both formerly of the Liberal faction in the Likud, yesterday recommended to former MK Ovadia Eli, head of the Likud's municipal election campaign, that former MK Ariel Lynn become the Likud's candidate for Tel Aviv mayor. A former chairman of the Knesset's Constitution and Law Committee, Lynn's greatest achievement was that he was one of the driving forces behind the change in the electoral system. *Michael Yudelman*

Philatelic exhibition opens today in TA

A giant international philatelic exhibition - part of the jubilee celebrations - opens today at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds, with the participation of President Ezer Weizman and Communications Minister Limor Livnat. Israel '98 will run for eight days with stamps from 120 countries. Some 600 Israelis will present their collections. Some of the stamps and first-day covers are the rarest and most expensive in the world; these include the famous Mauritius stamps, going back 150 years, that are rare because of a printing error. There will also be the oldest stamp in the world, a British "black penny" stamp on a letter dated May 1, 1840. *Judy Siegel*

Habad rabbi dies in Russia

Rabbi Arye Leib Kaplan, the head of Habad institutions in Safed, was killed yesterday morning in a traffic accident in Russia.

Kaplan, who arrived in Moscow Monday morning, was en route to Minsk to participate in the inauguration of a Torah scroll when the car in which he was travelling collided with a truck. Kaplan also served on the Safed City Council. He is survived by a wife and nine children. *lim*

Haifa man convicted of murder

Meir Elimelech, 30, of Haifa, was convicted by Haifa District Court yesterday of the May 1997 murder of his friend, Eliahu Matiyahu. The victim was stabbed during a quarrel over a radio-tape player he allegedly took from Elimelech's house while doing repairs there. Sentencing was delayed until next month so that the defense could present expert testimony as to Elimelech's diminished capacity. *lim*

Ben-Elissar confirmed as ambassador to France

The cabinet yesterday unanimously confirmed the appointment of Eliahu Ben-Elissar as ambassador to France. Ben-Elissar's move from Washington to Paris comes at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request. Ben-Elissar has many connections in the French capital, where he also attended university.

Ben-Elissar has served five terms as an MK, including three as chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He was also Israel's first ambassador to Egypt. *lim*

High Court revokes security prisoner's parole

The High Court of Justice yesterday accepted the state's petition against a parole board's decision to free Tarek Hayouna, convicted of killing a suspected collaborator, who had served two-thirds of his sentence. It agreed with Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein that the main consideration in a decision on parole should be the danger to the public involved and ordered the parole board to reconsider the case in this light. *lim*

Journalists 'slept through chance for Oslo scoop'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Journalists "falling asleep on the job" inadvertently saved the Oslo Agreement from premature publicity, according to Dr. Ron Pundak, one of the agreement's architects.

At a conference Monday on diplomacy and the media in the Middle East at Ben-Gurion University, Pundak said that during the secret talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators preceding the agreement in 1993, then-foreign minister Shimon Peres invited journalists to fly with him to Oslo.

"They turned him down," Pundak recalled, "because they expressed doubts about Peres's 'peace talks,' and then missed the scoop."

The Oslo Agreement was saved.

Colette Avital, a Foreign Ministry deputy director-general, said that with today's abundance of media channels, it is no longer possible to bar information from reaching the public.

"As in every field, in diplomacy and the media, the element of leadership decides the winner in the power struggle between two forces."

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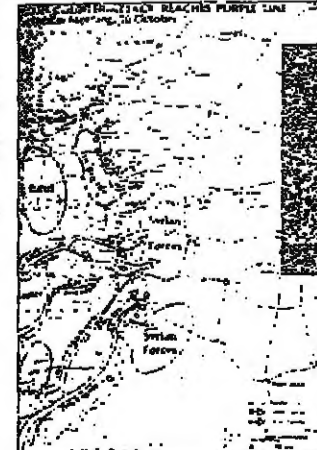
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There goes the neighborhood

India's surprising nuclear tests this week have blown apart Western strategy for stability in the heart of Asia

By R. JEFFREY SMITH

WASHINGTON — In the milliseconds needed to set off a few nuclear bombs early Monday morning, the government of India blew apart the Western world's long-standing strategy for preserving stability on the Asian subcontinent and containing a dangerous nuclear arms race among India, China and Pakistan.

The seismic waves took just 20 minutes to dissipate in the Earth's crust, but the consequences of the explosions will persist in Washington and other capitals for months if not years. Virtually every aspect of Washington's relationships with India and Pakistan may now have to be re-examined, according to US officials and independent experts.

No longer can the world claim only five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — and three undeclared powers, India, Pakistan and Israel. With scant regard for the admonitions of other members of the group, India has abruptly and loudly elbowed itself from the bottom into the top tier of this privileged elite.

A prevailing assumption of US policy in the region for the past 25 years — that regional stability could be preserved through deliberate, polite ambiguity about India's nuclear capabilities — is now utterly worthless. No one can ignore the country's weapons now, in Pakistan, China or anywhere else near enough to be within reach of India's

nuclear-capable bombers or the force of medium-range Agni ballistic missiles now in the final stage of development.

This means that Washington faces the immediate challenge of stopping the chain reaction that it had long predicted in the event of an Indian or Pakistani nuclear blast, namely a decision by the other country to respond in kind with a blast of its own. The first seismic station to record the shock waves was a site near Islamabad called Nihlore, and now Washington's task will be to convince the Pakistanis not to view the blasts through a prism of anxiety about New Delhi's intentions.

Few US officials were optimistic Monday that they will be successful in preventing Pakistan from carrying out its repeated public threats to do so. "Pakistan did not want to be the first to test ... but now they will be forced to by public opinion," said one senior official.

The tests also destroyed another prevailing assumption of US policy: that Washington could slowly lure India away from its insistence that nuclear weapons are essential to its security by spinning a web of economic ties and political dialogue. An unusually tough and clearly written US law leaves the administration no choice now but to implement a punishing set of sanctions that could harm US-India relations for years to come.

Washington's enthusiasm for a tough response was no doubt deepened by its embarrassment at having failed to see that the blasts were coming. This failure stands in contrast to an episode in

December 1995, when US spy satellites noticed suspicious work under way at the Indian test site at Pokaran, and US diplomats intervened in time to dissuade the ruling United Front coalition from going forward.

This time, India's military and top officials of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party were more cautious as they prepared for the explosions. As one US intelligence official put it Monday, "We were as shocked as anybody" due to Indian concealment efforts that deprived policy-makers and the CIA of any advance warning.

Another US official said, "We knew that the BJP had always taken the position that India should be a nuclear power ... but the political analysis was that they would not actually go through with this, that they would not do something that would be this costly." Whatever trust had existed between Washington and New Delhi on this issue will not be easily revived, according to this official and several others.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of the blasts in narrow military terms remains uncertain. While the Indian prime minister claimed in his public announcement that one of the devices was thermonuclear, implying a hydrogen bomb, several US government analysts cast doubt on that idea and said it was more likely a "boosted fission" device that falls short of the most powerful type of bomb devised by man so far.

Further clarification may not be available until US scientists have

analyzed any radioactive particles released by the blasts and captured downwind by Air Force sampling planes and ground-based radiation detectors.

India claimed the blasts, which occurred at 6:13 a.m. EDT, were more powerful than its only other nuclear explosion, undertaken almost 24 years ago to the day on May 15, 1974, in a test India has never acknowledged involved a nuclear weapon. But US officials said the total force of the three explosions appeared to be 10 to 20 kilotons, or less than 20,000 tons of TNT — a force roughly similar to the previous explosion.

India's most likely aim, the officials said, was to confirm the development of a bomb design particularly suited for deployment atop the new Agni missile, which is to have a projected range of 2,240 km. and be capable of reaching more than 15 nations, including much of China. The missile requires additional tests before it can be deployed.

One clue to India's motives for developing such a warhead may be a statement on May 3 by its defense minister, George Fernandes, who denounced Pakistan's recent test of a new medium-range ballistic missile called the Ghauri and also claimed that China posed a military threat because it had deployed tactical nuclear weapons near the Indian border in Tibet.

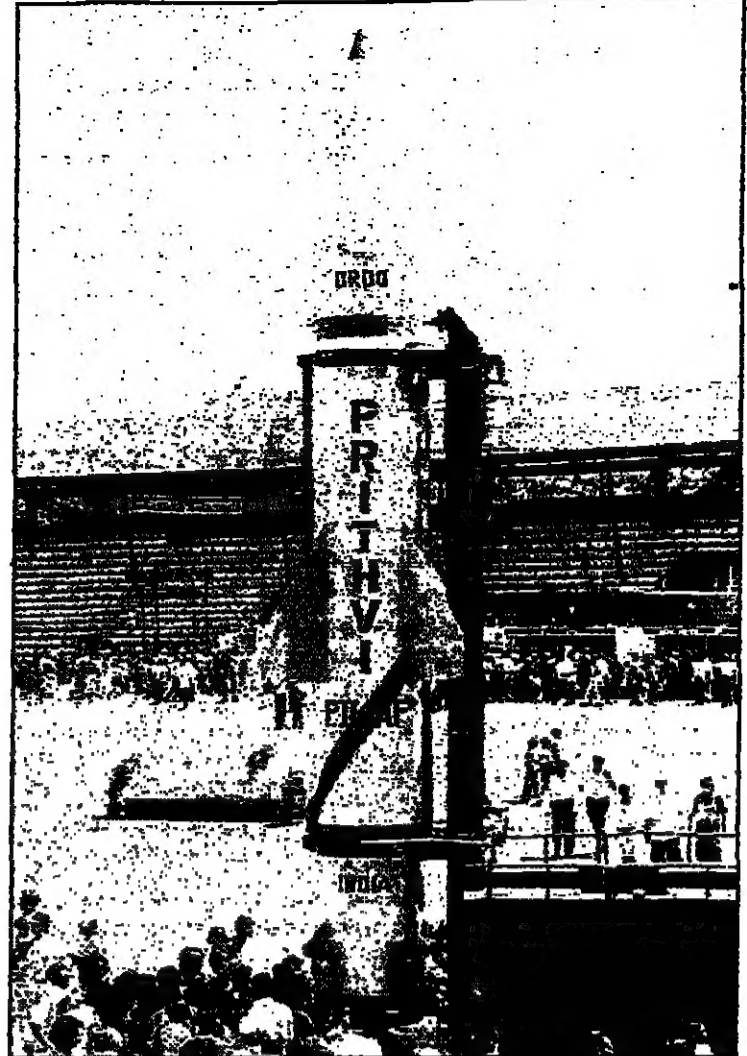
But US intelligence officials say they believe the long-standing Indian claim of nuclear missiles in Tibet is false, and that by resuscitating the allegation, New Delhi may be manufacturing a

foreign threat in an attempt to justify its own nuclear advances. China is in any event well-positioned to respond to any new Indian threat, with an arsenal of roughly 400 nuclear warheads already on hand and a well-established pipeline of quiet assistance to the Pakistani nuclear program.

In broader strategic terms, the Indian blasts constitute a blunt rejection of efforts by the five declared nuclear powers to convince all other nations that their security will be diminished, not enhanced, if they acquire an overt nuclear capability. This idea served as the cornerstone of US efforts in 1995 to convince the bulk of the world to forswear nuclear arms, and all nations in 1996 to forswear nuclear testing.

India had already rejected the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban treaty as hypocritical efforts by the established nuclear powers to prevent anyone else from joining their club. But Washington had hoped this view would eventually give way as economic power, rather than military might, became the most important determinant of influence in the post-Cold War era.

The blasts proved, if anything, that India is not buying that notion. Instead, as the Defense Department said in a report last year on proliferation problems, New Delhi continues to view "nuclear weapons as a symbol of international power and prestige" — much as the United States and the Soviet Union did in the heyday of the Cold War. (Washington Post)



A crowd gathers in Bombay last month around an exact-scale replica of a missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead to a distance of over 200 km. (Reuters)

New York State gives Grand Central a \$200m. overhaul

By KEVIN L. MCQUAID

NEW YORK — It's like Grand Central station in here.

Exhibit A: Construction workers in paint-stained jeans pull the triggers on screaming electric saws, as others strain to control concrete-punching jackhammers. The din is overwhelming.

Exhibit B: Amid the noise, steel scaffolding, orange mesh construction fence and makeshift dry-wall barriers, wide-eyed commuters bustle by from every direction, oblivious to the melee around them.

It is Grand Central station in here.

The world's most famous train terminal, crippled by years of traffic and neglect, is undergoing a \$200 million renovation courtesy of New York State. The program is intended to make the 85-year-old hub both aesthetically pleasing and economically viable.

Whether both objectives are met will depend largely on the efforts of Williams Jackson Ewing Inc., a Baltimore real estate outfit with a national reputation for transforming high-profile, often weathered landmarks into destinations where

people go to shop, eat, be entertained — even catch trains.

At Grand Central Terminal, WJE and partner Chicago-based LaSalle Partners are planning to introduce 119 stores and restaurants as part of a comprehensive renovation to the terminal, which architectural writer Kenneth Powell once described as "one of a handful of structures which are universal symbols of New York."

Although the retail portion of the revitalized Grand Central alone will cost \$78 million, the development team's overall revitalization is intended to restore the terminal used by more than 500,000 people a day to its stature of decades past.

That a Baltimore company is being tapped to direct the rejuvenation of a New York institution hasn't been lost on Ewing, and neither has Grand Central's importance.

"It's a building everyone in New York takes ownership in. It's a jewel to the city, and we're treating it as such," said Michael J. Ewing, a WJE partner. "This building is priceless. It's part of our heritage — it tells us who we are."

Ewing acknowledges that it would have been easy to fill Grand Central's planned 15,000 square meters of retail space with the sort of merchants that have become ubiquitous in the nation's malls, such as The Gap and The Limited.

Taking that avenue could have been immensely profitable, too, since big-name retailers typically pay more rent. They also tend to sell more goods, allowing landlords in most cases to collect additional rent based on the volume of their tenants' sales.

But WJE and New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the station's owner, knew that Big Apple commuters and tourists probably wouldn't go for a suburban mall concept jammed into a purely urban setting. So instead, the real estate brokerage firm has taken a decidedly New York tack, booking trendy local restaurants and an eclectic mix of both national retailers and service-oriented businesses.

Exhibit C: By October, when the 1913 train station built by shipping magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt at 42nd Street and Park Avenue is "rededicated," to use

the MTA's terminology, it will house apparel stores with names like Addison on Madison, Banana Republic and Kenneth Cole, as well as eateries with names like Zocalo, Dawat, Matthew Kenney and Cipriani's.

The payoff from renovating the six-level train terminal could be enormous. WJE expects Grand Central's new merchants to generate sales of \$250 million a year, and pay roughly \$25m. a year in rent.

WJE will earn a fee, with the potential of other incentive bonuses. By comparison, a suburban mall of the same size would have tenant sales of roughly \$40m., and generate about \$6.5m. a year in rental income.

"We're really quite pleased with the tenant lease-up we've had, and thus far we've exceeded our revenue projections," said Forrest Taylor, the New York MTA's deputy executive director.

The new Grand Central is slated to create as many as 4,000 permanent jobs and an annual economic impact of \$395m.

THAT WJE was tapped in April 1995 to rejuvenate Grand Central — over bigger retail development

names like the Rouse Co., Taubman Co. Inc. and the Hahn Co. — shouldn't come as too much of a surprise, though.

After all, WJE was largely responsible a decade ago for turning Washington, D.C.'s Union Station from a dark, moribund train shed into a landmark that today is part shopping mall, part food mecca, part movie theater and part train station.

Prior to WJE's renovation of Union Station, 6 million people a year traversed the capital's main train hub. Today, the project boasts 35 million visitors a year and retail and restaurant sales in excess of \$100m. People often go to Union Station for an evening, even if a train isn't involved.

But don't look for Grand Central to be simply a duplicate of Union Station.

"We've thrown away a lot of what we learned at Union Station in order to do Grand Central," said W. Lehr Jackson, another WJE partner.

"No project we've ever done is a reproduction of one we've done before," he said. "Our formula is there is no formula."

At Grand Central, WJE's plan

centers around peeling back the layers of time and restoring Grand Central to past prominence.

Grand Central Station's four balconies, which will be home to the station's four new sit-down restaurants, proved to be a lucrative addition. At 2,300 square meters, they added nearly 20 percent to the total amount of space available, and increased the project's potential revenue by at least that much.

"We wanted to do a restaurant that would compete with the best steakhouses in New York, and the MTA wanted a world-class facility, so it was a great match," said Peter Glazier, who has teamed up with basketball great Michael Jordan for one of Grand Central's pending restaurants.

GRAND CENTRAL is significant for WJE not only for its size and scope, but because the company's involvement extends well beyond simply adding new places for people to demonstrate their consumer confidence.

WJE is directing other dramatic changes within Grand Central, too.

Perhaps most notably, the terminal's ceiling — depicting a mural of

constellations 38 meters above the station's main concourse — has been restored to its original prominence and green hue. Only a small square of the black soot that had collected from years of neglect remains.

WJE and LaSalle also are replacing a loading dock with a new entrance, and ramps that had been part of the terminal's original design are being constructed. The team is also installing new escalators and ripping out walls to give the station a less constricted feel.

And Grand Central won't be alone in its upgrades. Thanks to a partnership of businesses and the city, a master plan to improve buildings in a 10-block radius of Grand Central is being designed and executed.

But at least for now, Grand Central's rehab will stop at its doors, and a film of black soot and grime caked on the terminal's concrete walls from automobile exhaust fumes will remain, a testament to its not so distant past.

"It's just not in our budget," said the MTA's Taylor, of cleaning Grand Central's exterior. "But we're hopeful that some patron will come along." (Baltimore Sun)

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By ANDREW MARSHALL

officials said four corpses with gunshot wounds had been brought.

"They had been shot in the head and back and their bodies have been taken to the morgue," said an official in the emergency room.

A diplomat said a representative from a Western embassy had been told by doctors that five had died.

At Jakarta's Trisakti University, a private Christian institution known for its upper-class student body, an official said two of the dead had been identified as students. The others had yet to be identified.

Assistant rector for student affairs Komang Suka-arsana said

several students had been injured by gunshot and stones.

"At the moment there are 15, but this could increase. We are still collecting the data. All of them are university students, 13 from this campus and two from other campuses," he said.

Student protests have already claimed two lives — a bystander who received a head injury during clashes in Yogyakarta on Friday and a plainclothes intelligence officer in Bogor who police say died after being hit on the head by a rock on Saturday.

Suharto, 76, is out of the country, attending a summit of emergency nations in Egypt. Refusing

departing, he called for stability and an end to student demonstrations.

Suharto has said preparations for political reform could begin immediately, but implementation of most of them would have to wait until the end of his seventh five-year term in 2003.

But student protesters want changes now.

Witnesses said violence flared at Trisakti University when students attacked a man they said was a plainclothes intelligence officer. Riot police moved to protect him.

Students then attacked police, who responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and batons.

Witnesses said the shells came from automatic rifles littered the ground, although it was not clear if they were from live ammunition.

Around 5,000 students had earlier staged a rally demanding political reform, some burning pictures of Suharto painted with a Hitler moustache. A group of 1,000 tried to march on parliament but were blocked by troops with armored cars.

Witnesses said the clashes broke out as darkness fell, when many of the protesters had already dispersed.

Workers also took to the streets to protest against the military's attack on the unions.

members of an unofficial trade union marching on the International Monetary Fund's offices, urging the organization to hold back a multi-billion-dollar bailout package for Indonesia's crippled economy until the government agrees to political reform.

Nearly 100 workers, some wearing the uniform of city bus drivers, converged on the central bank building which houses the IMF's local offices in Jakarta. Two representatives of the Indonesian Labor Welfare Union (BSI) met senior IMF officials.

Riot police were quickly on the scene, but the protesters dispersed before fully alerting the police.

Reports of kidnappings and torture continued to surface, with a human rights activist who was kidnapped and then released after two months telling a Jakarta news conference he was tortured during his detention.

Describing one three-hour torture session, Desmond Mahesa said: "During that time, I was kicked and beaten on my head, back, hands, and leg. I was also subjected to electric shocks."

Some human rights activists have accused the army of being behind alleged "disappearances," but the military has denied involvement and ordered investi-

By MICHAEL BYRNES

interests," he said.

SCA deputy director Peter Weeks said a high-level delegation from the Irish government was in Libya trying to convince Libya to switch purchases from Australian to Irish cattle.

Indirect threats of a Libyan switch to Irish purchases, in decisions to be made in the next couple of weeks, were being raised through the industry, Weeks said.

Libya had not explicitly threatened to stop buying Australian cattle if diplomatic acceptance was not forthcoming.

"[But] they have indicated that that [the diplomatic question] is a consideration in the contracts they're about to sign," Weeks said.

Most cattle sales to Libya are through contracts with the govern-

Australian live cattle sales to Libya, which rose to 97,525 head worth A\$51m, in 1997 from just 7,700 head in 1996.

Sales have continued to surge and Weeks said Libya was expected to buy 200,000 head of Australian cattle in the next full 12 months.

Weeks described Libya as a rapidly growing market and enormously valuable for the Australian industry after the collapse of the Indonesian market.

Australia froze diplomatic and political ties with Libya in 1987 on grounds that it was sponsoring terrorist activities.

Trade restrictions were eased in 1993, but Canberra refuses to restore diplomatic ties until Tripoli complies with UN Security Council resolutions demanding it

Libya stopped importing Irish cattle last year because of the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or "mad cow disease," and switched purchases to Australia.

By GARETH JONES

and India and in securing recognition from the European Union and Russia to a market economy. The 71-year-old president, who looked fit and spoke in a firm, clear voice, said relations with the US had passed beyond the "initial period of illusions and heightened expectations" and are now firmly based on mutual respect.

He was referring to the very warm ties forged with Washington immediately after the collapse of Soviet communism in 1991, when the then-foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev steered a course seen by many con-

ervatives as too pro-Western.

Under Primakov, a former spy-master who replaced Koryzev in early 1996, Russia has adopted a more nationalist foreign policy, one that has often set it apart from the West, notably in Iraq and the Balkans, where Moscow has historically good ties with Serbia.

Yeltsin said he would speak by telephone with US President Bill Clinton yesterday ahead of their planned meeting in the English city of Birmingham later this week during a summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) main industrialized nations.

In his speech, Yeltsin hailed Russia's full inclusion in the G-8 — which also groups Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Canada — as another victory for Russian diplomacy.

But he urged diplomats to give greater priority to supporting Russian commercial interests abroad. "We shall enter the world economy not just as a land of rich natural resources but as an industrially developed nation, an equal and

responsible partner," Yeltsin said. Yeltsin renewed his appeal to the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, to ratify the START-2 nuclear arms reduction treaty.

Under the treaty, already ratified by the US Senate, Moscow and Washington would reduce their deployed nuclear warheads from 6,000 each to no more than 3,500 by the year 2007.

The Duma, dominated by Yeltsin's communist foes, is worried about the costs of destroying the weapons and about fears that the US is planning to break out of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty by building new missile defense systems.

Washington denies this.

Yeltsin said global disarmament remains one of the priorities of Russian foreign policy and he joined a chorus of international criticism over India's decision on Monday to carry out three underground nuclear tests.

By JAMES VICINI

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US Attorney-General Janet Reno said yesterday an independent counsel should investigate influence peddling and campaign fund-raising allegations against Labor Secretary Alexis Herman in another case that targets a top presidential appointee.

Reno said a special three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals should name an outside counsel to investigate the alleged scheme to sell Herman's influence when she was a White House aide during President Bill Clinton's first term.

The other part of the investigation should focus on whether Herman directed or solicited illegal campaign contributions from her close friend Vanessa Weaver, Reno said.

Herman has denied the allegations.

Reno followed the recommendation of the Justice Department's public integrity unit that an independent counsel was warranted under the law to conduct a full-blown criminal investigation.

A Justice Department spokesman said the Herman case marked the seventh time that Reno was asked for an independent counsel to investigate alleged high-level wrongdoing since Clinton took office in 1993.

The most prominent investigation has been conducted by independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who expanded his initial Whitewater probe to allegations that Clinton attempted to cover up a sexual relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton has denied the allegations.

In an eight-page filing with the appeals court, Reno said the independent counsel should investigate whether any violations of federal criminal law have been committed by Herman and whether prosecution was warranted.

Clinton said he remained confident that an independent counsel that will investigate Herman will find that she "did nothing wrong." Since Dec. 10, the Justice Department has conducted a preliminary investigation mainly into whether Herman had a hidden financial interest in a business partially owned by her friend, Weaver.

The purpose of the preliminary probe was to determine whether an independent counsel should be named.

An African businessman has claimed that he delivered an envelope containing cash to Herman's

home in the spring of 1996 when she was working as a White House aide.

The Cameroon-born businessman, Laurent Yene, said the cash was a 10 percent cut of consulting fees given to him by a client seeking a federal license for a satellite-telephone system.

Yene was a part-owner of a consulting business with Weaver, who bought the firm from Herman when he took a job in 1993 as director of the White House Office of Public Liaison.

Reno said Yene also claimed that Herman directed Weaver to obtain campaign contributions to the Democratic National Committee from the firm's clients.

While Reno said she cannot conclusively determine that Yene's allegations are credible, she said many of the details of his story has been corroborated.



Former US Air Force pilot Gail Halverson, of Provo, Utah, waves from the cockpit of a C-54 Skymaster after landing at Berlin's Tempelhof Airport on Monday. He came to participate in yesterday's show marking the 49th anniversary of the end of the Berlin Airlift, during which he flew a C-54. (AP)

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While Reno said she cannot conclusively determine that Yene's allegations are credible, she said many of the details of his story has been corroborated.

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Russians flock to business colleges

By VANORA BENNETT

MOSCOW — When Oleg Podobryansky was a teenager, his dream was to become a top Soviet scientist, doing research that would expand the frontiers of Soviet knowledge to undreamed-of places.

But Podobryansky graduated with a doctorate in biochemistry in 1991, the year his Soviet Union and its dreams fell apart. The once-lofty state science institutes were too broke to hire him.

So he left the world of science. To make enough money to survive under capitalism, he started trading consumer goods. He set up a small firm. He married. He prospered. But he kept banking for knowledge.

Last year, at age 33, Podobryansky went back to school. This time around, he's chosen a major that fits his present way of life, as a well-off businessman and father living in a city whose brand of capitalism has become relatively stable. He's getting his master's degree in economic theory.

Podobryansky's trajectory

shows the changes that have taken place in higher education in Russia this decade as young people growing up with radically different lifestyles and expectations from those of their parents — and of their own childhoods — train, or retrain, for the future.

"There was a long phase where students dropped out of school altogether, and went off to trade on the street instead. But that's over now. Kids know they need to equip themselves properly for the job market these days. And they're flocking back to educate themselves," said Alla Tilina, deputy dean of the baccalaureate department of the Higher School of Economics, founded after the Soviet collapse.

"It's very useful," Podobryansky said of his new studies at the Higher School of Economics. "What I need now is some theory, as well as some new management techniques, to help me at work."

In earlier times, during the settled years of Soviet stagnation — as recently as 1980 — more than two-thirds of students in college were learning the rugged profes-

sion of engineering, medicine, agriculture and many branches of pure and applied scientific research for civilian or, more often, military purposes.

The macho daydream of Soviet science students was to become a cosmonaut. More realistically, they could be confident that good exam results would land them prestigious, well-paid work in a huge state institution. In a nation whose self-image was of a giant, smoothly functioning machine, almost 50 percent of all college students were future engineers.

Then came the first period of change. Polls from the despairing, uncertain perestroika years at the end of the 1980s were notorious for showing that schoolchildren thought their best employment hope for the future was a career as a butcher, taxi driver, street trader or hard-currency prostitute. The number of students in higher education dropped sharply as thousands took the same route as Oleg Podobryansky.

Parents wrung their hands in despair at the idea that education was going out of style.

Now another change has come

as the first generation of post-Soviet high school students figures out the best way of getting ahead in the new world. These days, the magnetic pull of the giant machine has weakened, and the attractions of private entrepreneurship have grown stronger.

"I'm not going to be an academic; I want a career in the private sector, later, in a company or a bank," said Katya Pkhaladze, 19, a cheerful economics student embarking on the grueling 44-hour-a-week undergraduate course at the Higher School of Economics. But she thought she might first complete not only her four-year undergraduate studies but go on to earn a two-year master's degree, and she had shopped carefully around the top institutes for the best program before taking entrance exams to her school.

Economics studies are the biggest crowd-pullers. The high-profile Higher School of Economics and the New Economic School, both in Moscow, were founded in the early 1990s as a way to spread Western-style economic thinking in the Russian academic commu-

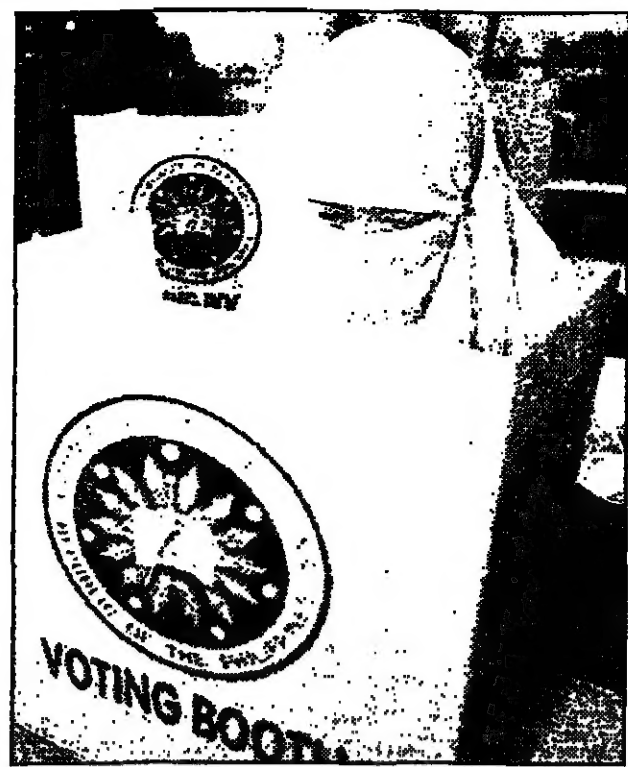
nity. The schools' founders wanted to train a new generation of economists to teach Western methods, and to provide a labor pool of trained experts for work in ministries and private firms.

The Higher School of Economics offers degrees in economics, law, management, sociology and finance. It gets government financing for the best 200 of its approximately 400 students. Others pay fees of about \$100 a month.

The total number of college students is rising again too, from 583,000 in 1990 to 748,000 last year. But, in a country of 150 million people, this is still a tiny minority — mostly the children of a city-bred elite.

"We're trying to make our education more accessible to more people," said Yaroslav Kuzminov, chancellor of the Higher School of Economics. "But higher education is still very elitist. You tend to get the children of the powerful, not the man on the street, coming in. I think that's something that could cause problems in the future unless we change it."

(Los Angeles Times)



At the polls in the Philippines

A Filipino Muslim fills out her ballot for the national election this week. Exit polls and early counts clearly indicate that Joseph Estrada will be the next president. (Reuters)

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By HELEN KAYE

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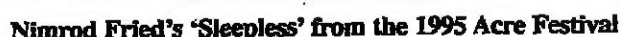
"I told him that if I did as he

Then he adds in English "that is the truth. The rest is just baloney."

BY HELEN KAYE

"And where art is a part of life. I eat. I play with my kids there. I perform. And if a car beeps on the street outside or conversation drifts in, well, let's deal with that."

Fried started out as a dancer. He came back here after a decade in New York, where he worked first



Al Hevel Dak happened because Beit Tami's Mor was enthusiastic about the program. Fried's performers are all seasoned and gifted professionals "who are prepared to take risks and come out on that limb with me," Fried

Compared with the NIS 20 million of public funds that were thrown at *Jubilee Bells*, Fried's requests are downright miniscule. A mere NIS 50,000 would see them through.

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By JANE E. ALLEN

The poll found that minority children primarily admire African-

Amy Jordan, who directs children's television research at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center, said the survey results are consistent with other research that found minorities regularly underrepresented, more likely to be stereotyped and more apt to be portrayed in low-class jobs, as criminals or as buffoons. (AP)

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Indian musicians perform tomorrow at the Khan in Amirei Hagalil (8:30), Saturday at Confederation House in Jerusalem (9), May 20 at the Jerusalem Music Center (8:30), May 21 at the Haifa Museum (8:30), and May 28 at a jazz concert at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv (9) in which they will play with local jazz artists.

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This is a mature, penetrating, subtle rendition. Ma plays the music as if he were a young naive boy discovering these great works of art for the first time and is reveling in their joy. At the same time, it is a performance that only a mature musician who has played the music many times before could render.

When we listen to it, we are immediately drawn into Ma's inner world and the excitement of his somewhat naive, very alert and very tantalizing music making. There are many admirable recordings of these suites, but this one should rank at the top. But this

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The real catastrophe

As the world takes note of Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations, the Palestinians feel compelled to organize their own counter-commemoration of what they call *al-Nakba* – the Catastrophe. The real catastrophe from a Palestinian perspective – if we may be so presumptuous – is the continuing definition of Palestinian identity in anti-Israel terms.

For Israeli-Arabs in particular, it would not be honest to regard the founding of Israel as a catastrophe. Jewish immigration to Palestine in the pre-state era did not displace Arabs, but rather the opposite – the Jewish influx attracted a substantial and parallel Arab immigration. In 1937, the Peel Commission reported that the "shortfall of land is, we consider, due less to the increase in land acquired by the Jews than to the increase in the Arab population." This Arab growth indicates that the Jewish people's return to the country, if Arab leaders had continued to welcome it as they did initially, could have been entirely consistent with the rise of Arab nationalism in Palestine.

In any case, Israeli Arabs are more prosperous, safer, and more free than they would have been if Israel had been wiped out at birth in the 1948 war. The alternative to Israel in 1948 was not freedom, independence, or prosperity, but life under one or more of the states of the region, most likely Syria. Israel's founding can honestly be considered a catastrophe only for Israeli Arabs who regard nationalism to be the paramount value and who would prefer life under an Arab tyranny to being a minority in a democratic Jewish state.

None of this means, of course, that Israeli Arabs should be expected to be delirious as Israel celebrates its jubilee. Israel has not yet risen to the challenge of being a Jewish state that treats its Arab minority with full equality, not just under the law, but in society and within the budget. Israel has yet to find a way to combine the Jewishness of the state, its flag, its anthem, and its ethos with a full democratic and human commitment to its Arab citizens.

On the Palestinian side, even if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, it is hard to draw comfort from the events planned for tomorrow by the Palestinian Authority. At noon, Palestinians will be asked to stand for one minute of silence to commemorate *al-Nakba*, as Israelis stand on memorial days to remember the victims of the Holocaust and the fallen in Israel's wars.

Palestinians certainly have a right to mourn

their fallen and the suffering they have endured in their conflict against Israel. But the choice of Israel's Independence Day transforms the event from a recognition of Palestinian sacrifice to a protest against Israel's existence. As Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu put it, "The disaster that Arafat said happened 50 years ago, just happened to be the creation of Israel." One PA official and march organizer described the theme of the day as "50 years of steadfastness and resistance." But this means that the "resistance" is not just to Israel's post-1967 borders, but to Israel's existence from day one.

Israel has a right to object to such rhetoric, which violates both the letter and the spirit of the Oslo process. Once again, it reflects the mind-set that has proved so destructive for the Arab world in general and the Palestinians in particular: that of the zero-sum game. If Israel celebrates, we must mourn; if Israel gains, we lose – this way of thinking makes peace practically impossible.

The Palestinians want Israel and the world to believe that they have now subscribed to the "two state solution" – Israel and a Palestinian state living side-by-side, in peace, in the narrow space between Jordan and the sea. They want us to believe that the "strategy of stages," in which a Palestinian state is simply a way station to "liberating all of Palestine," has been abandoned. And they want us to believe that the Palestinian National Covenant, dedicated to Israel's destruction, is a dead letter. Some argue that the Palestinians are merely venting steam, that such rhetoric is a function of frustration that will evaporate as the peace process moves forward. Yet it may be argued that the opposite is the case: now, with Israeli territorial concessions in the balance, is when the Palestinians have the strongest incentive to reassure Israelis that they have dropped the zero-sum game and accept Israel. If they cannot bring themselves to abide by their own commitments to accept Israel now, why would they do so with less incentive in the future?

The Palestinians seem to have a knack for choosing old hatreds over self-interest, much like the fable of the scorpion and the frog, in which the scorpion stings the frog carrying him across the river, even though both will drown. That was the true catastrophe of 1948, when the Arab world chose to try to destroy Israel rather than accept partition. Fifty years later, the Palestinians seem to have learned little.



Unhelpful plans

YOSSI BEN-AHARON

On March 13, 1969, then-ambassador Yitzhak Rabin was called in to meet then-US secretary of state William Rogers and his assistants. The meeting between Rogers and Rabin turned out to be an important milestone in US-Israel relations.

For the first time since the Six Day War, the American administration decided to draft a blueprint for an Arab-Israeli settlement and to adopt it as a basis for discussions with the Soviet Union, in the context of the policy of superpower détente which the Nixon-Kissinger administration was advancing.

When we read the top secret "Oral Statement," we could barely contain our rage. The authors of the "statement" maintained that "the type of relations existing between neighboring states that have long lived in peace is untenable at this stage in history."

They then went on to say that "the US believes the... boundaries with the UAR (Egypt) should be the former international boundary and with Jordan should closely resemble the lines existing before the June 1967 war."

That event triggered a head-on confrontation between the Israel embassy and the administration. But the US government was not deterred. It went on and conveyed its position to the Soviets and to Egypt's president Nasser.

The Arab and Soviet governments turned it down. They refused to countenance any bilateral agreement with Israel and insisted on a UN-imposed withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 lines, to be guaranteed by the UN and buttressed by security arrangements.

Facing an all-around rejection of its proposal, the US administration gave up its attempt. But Washington could not leave matters as they were. It had to maintain its hold on develop-

ments. It had to demonstrate the extent to which it was trying to satisfy Arab demands and reach an agreement with the Soviets on regional stability.

In December 1969, Rogers gave a speech in which he disclosed the essence of the "Oral Statement." That speech became known as the "Rogers Plan." A decade passed and the Rogers

ahead and published another plan, or initiative, or proposal.

WE are now facing another cycle of developments reminiscent of 1969. The Arab side has sensed that the US government is still beholden to the superficial equation of territory for peace, in spite of negative experience accumulated over the years. They have tried again – and succeeded for the nth time – to enlist American pressure on Israel to relinquish land in return for papers and empty promises.

In the Sixties and Seventies, State Department officials used to explain that the "even-handed" policy was necessary because of competition with the Soviets in the Cold War era and growing American dependence on Persian Gulf oil.

Both reasons are no longer applicable. If American interests require stability and the prevention of tension in this region – and I am sure they do – then the Clinton administration is pursuing this goal in the wrong way. Even the appearance of a split between the US and Israel will precipitate further Arab demands, as was the case in 1969 and a few times since. An impression of a weakening Israel will invite an escalation, if not war.

American policy-makers refuse to understand that real progress can be achieved only by creating a solid US-Israel front. Such a front should require the Palestinian Authority and its supporters to carry out their obligations under existing agreements to the letter.

Only after all undertakings are carried out and tested on the ground can the issue of further withdrawals from territory be broached. Israelis are sick and tired of making territorial concessions that begot only further demands, coupled with more terror and violence, while peace keeps fading beyond the horizon.

If American interests require stability and the prevention of tension in this region – and I am sure they do – then the Clinton administration is pursuing this goal in the wrong way

Plan gathered dust on State Department shelves. Only after Sadat and Begin decided to deal directly with each other, peace was finally concluded. President Carter provided hospitality and bridging proposals.

However, successive American administrations continued to author and publish their own detailed plans, in spite of consistent rejections by the Arabs and strong protests from Israel.

Israelis argued that in order for peace to be reciprocal, balanced and of a lasting nature, it must evolve through a true process of mutual give and take. The Americans seemed to agree – and then went

Viagra, alas

RUTHIE BLUM

I used to be said that Israel's cultural lag behind the United States was about 10 years. Just when Americans would have some kind of backlash, Israelis were developing a passion for the very thing that was on its way out across the ocean.

Satellites and microchips have pretty much changed all that. However, the forms some of this speedy imitation take are often worrisome. Rather than evolving from one fanatic health, education and welfare adherence to another by virtue of having experienced the ramifications of each, Israel keeps making revolutionary leaps without quite digesting any phase along the way.

Psychotherapy barely has the chance to become popular here, for example, when Prozac floods the market. Just barely does the "open" classroom take hold, when reciting the multiplication table is reintroduced in Israeli elementary schools.

There is no realm in which this race to keep up with the latest US fashion is more visible than in that of human sexuality. A mere 10 years ago it was possible to see even sophisticated Israelis frown in disbelief at the notion that some, one could be attracted to a member of his own sex – let alone want to become a member of the opposite sex; and now Dana International is a national cult figure, all because he turned into a she.

A mere five years ago, the term "sexual harassment" would have sounded oxymoronic to most Israelis; now, Israel boasts the most stringent sexual harassment legislation in the world.

A mere three years ago, no Israeli would have been caught dead admitting to a slack in bedroom performance; now, it is virtually impossible to turn on the radio, without being bombarded by ads for clinics treating sexual dysfunction. And the "airing-your-dirty-laundry" talk-show is a big rating-gleaner in the Holy Land.

AND now there's Viagra. A drug initially tested – and ruled out – for the alleviation of angina pectoris, Viagra became a major hit

Israeli men have been undergoing a "crash course" in American-style sexual relations at the speed of the Challenger

in the US about two months ago when its human guinea pigs discovered that, though it wasn't helping their hearts, it sure was warming their cockles.

Knowing a gold mine when it saw one, the Pfizer pharmaceutical company began pushing these pills at about \$10 a pop.

Given the mass descent upon doctors to obtain prescriptions for this "miracle" drug, it is likely that the meds could just as easily have been sold for \$100 per pill. Erections, it seems, are something Americans take very seriously – if no longer for granted.

No sooner did Viagra websites begin to "pop up" all over the Internet than Israelis began to want in on the wonders of the instant, psychology/urology-free, arouser.

Unlike Israelis, however, American men have had a good three decades in which to lose their libidos. First came the sexual revolution (when they were told that not only were women to be had for the consequence-free picking, but that it was the women who were toting this philosophy); then there was the feminist movement (when they were told that they were all either actual rapists or rapists-at-heart and responsible for the pairing off of women with each other); then came post-feminism (where they were told to be manly, yet sensitive, to buy women big diamond engagement rings, but make sure to familiarize themselves with the elusive "y-spot"); and now there is the age of sexual harassment (where they are told that admiring a woman at the office is punishable practically by death).

One wonders how such a man can ever get to the engagement ring phase – or even the "y-spot," for that matter – without first engaging in the kind of foray which used to be known as harmless, albeit titillating, flirtation. Having had the sexiness taken out of sex, American men are now resorting to chemicals. Israeli men, on the other hand, have been undergoing a "crash course" in American-style sexual relations at the speed of the Challenger.

It is no wonder, then, that the drug – yet to be approved by the Health Ministry – is being purchased on the black market as though the fate of Israeli erections is soon to march that of the Challenger. So much for cultural lag, alas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARENS'S INACCURACIES

Sir, – Regarding Moshe Arens's article "Much ado about nothing" (May 8), I don't know if I was more surprised by his inconsistencies or by his inaccuracies.

I could not believe that he actually wrote that "no such exemptions from military service were ever requested by Orthodox Jews, nor granted, in the United States or Europe in time of war." What history books is he reading?

Everyone knows the lengths that a Jewish boy went through in Europe to avoid conscription into the army. Many even went so far as to maim themselves to avoid it. As for the United States, they had an

exemption for yeshiva students and I know well that many boys signed up in yeshivot during the Vietnam War so as to avoid conscription.

His misinformation seems to make his point ridiculous. If he wants to see the US as a standard of correct procedure, then he would have to exhibit a little more respect for the divinity exemption that has long been a part of the American military system.

As to his inconsistencies, he states that "even secular Israelis must be aware that it was the Jewish religion, and particularly the strict observance of its commandments, that kept the Jewish people alive during years of

dispersion and persecution..." But four paragraphs later he condemns the rabbinical establishment for preventing the integration of tens of thousands of Russians into Israeli society – just because they are from mixed marriages! If he had his way, he would destroy that very thing which has, by his own admission, kept the Jewish people alive.

Is he saying that the preservation of the Jewish people is any less important today than it was before we had the State of Israel?

MIRIAM REINFELD

Jerusalem.

PUBLIC ASSETS

a while, to entice the tourists of the great hotels: Their existence depends on them. Nowadays, greed and stupidity attack even those.

A blatant example is to be found in Ashkelon, erstwhile charming place of King Solomon's rendezvous, with the Queen of Sheba (allegedly).

The central beach, a hitherto well kept, spacious place of recreation, has been recently cut down to less than a third of its original size, with fences on both flanks running down to the sea. On one side, the excavators are already

working. The original beach was just large enough to accommodate the numerous sun and sea worshippers during the summer months, especially on the weekends. Now, by the end of April, it is already crowded.

May I put the question respectfully: Where is our Ministry of the Environment and the Minister of the Interior, to allow such mismanagement of our public assets?

I.D. KAFRY

Ashkelon.

STAND BY HIS WIFE

Sir, – Now that Hillary Clinton has proclaimed that she supports the creation of a Palestinian state, I respectfully suggest that Sara Netanyahu state that she opposes

this and, unlike President Clinton's statement "that the view expressed by his wife" is not his view, Prime Minister Netanyahu should stand by his wife and indi-

cate he shares her position.

MOSHE BERLIN

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On May 13, 1948, The Palestine Post reported Yaffo's unconditional surrender to Jewish forces and announced that the Hagana controlled the entire coastal plain. Fierce fighting continued in the Etzion Bloc where the Arab Legion started a heavy bombardment of the settlements from field guns, cannons

mounted on tanks, armored cars and heavy machine-guns. Egypt declared "state of siege." Shots were fired on Jewish vehicles and passers-by by British soldiers on their way out of the country.

25 years ago: On May 13, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported that according to Mr. Yosef

Tamir, the Chairman of the Knesset's Ecology Committee, the rehabilitation of Israel's beaches would cost IL 750 million, and that even with the aid of such financial resources, it would take a long time to repair the current damage.

Alexander Zvielli

05/13/98



Barbie's back in Hebrew



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Barbie Mesabehek U'madpis (Barbie Measabehek and Prints), a CD-ROM translated into Hebrew by Makhshevet from the original disk by Manel, for children (especially girls), NIS 129.

Ratings: ★★★★★

Any decent program that can get girls interested in computers is to be welcomed, even if it does so using the treacly, goopy images of Barbie and her friends.

This CD-ROM isn't edumacation, such as the previous, highly rated *Barbie Fashion Designer* disk, and doesn't turn the user into a "movie producer," like the *Barbie Tells Stories* disk. It's used solely to print out stationery, postcards, posters, signs, greeting cards, and calendars. So if you don't have a good inkjet color printer, this isn't for you. Because Manel produced the English-language original, there are many images of Barbie, her boyfriend Ken and their gang. But if you want to avoid these, there remain many other, albeit idealized, images to print out.

There are nine types of stationery with borders that are either floral or geometric, and a title, such as "Reminder from Barbie" or "Shopping List," which can be altered or eliminated altogether. Eighteen postcard designs, some involving Barbie and friends and some free of them, can be printed out one or two to a page. Four dozen poster designs are available as is, or they can be edited.

Makhshevet didn't bother to edit out images of a Christmas tree, Easter eggs or Halloween pumpkins, but it changed their headings, respectively, to Happy



Holiday, Spring is Here and Masquerade Time, even though no self-respecting Jew would use them to fill in for Hanukka, Pessah or Purim.

There are 24 different calendar designs, many of them decorated with Barbie. One can choose a month with a design on the top or the bottom. Here, Makhshevet did make the effort to introduce Jewish holidays, Shabbat and names of the Hebrew months. I couldn't find an easy way to prepare calendar pages for months apart from the current one dictated by the computer's internal calendar - other than by going out of the program and changing the calendar to a different month and then changing it back again. One can click on graphic symbols and insert them into a certain date, such as a boxed present for somebody's birthday.

The coloring book section has 24 designs, almost all of them featuring Barbie. You can print out the designs as they are or erase the colors and fill in spaces with hues chosen from a palette. To produce greeting cards in any of three shapes, choose from among 24 party themes, 48 holidays (including US Independence Day and Thanksgiving), and 24 birthday greetings. Coordinated designs can be printed out on envelopes in two shapes. Messages, and even full letters, can be prepared in any

of dozens of Hebrew and English fonts (even Rashi script) ranging in size from 20 to 70 points.

Once you've written the text, it can be defined and either stretched over a larger area or squeezed into a smaller one. Users will love the possibility of shaping text into 12 different forms: circles, rainbows, diamonds, slashes and columns of various types. There is also a large variety of graphic additions one can place on your creations, from Barbie silhouettes to frames and hearts. It isn't possible to erase single elements from a screen using your mouse, but you can eliminate text letter by letter or a whole section of an image.

One-column signs can be produced in either language; the best thing about this is that the letters can be produced in the form of a rainbow, either each letter in many colors or the tones gradually changing from one end of the message to another. If the sign you choose is large, it can be printed out on several pieces of paper and glued end to end. If you have special sticky-backed paper, you can print out stickers in circles and rectangles of four sizes - but considering the high price of ink cartridges, it would be cheaper to buy them ready-made. And anything you print out will have the Manel copyright symbol on the bottom of it; no recipients won't be able to think you drew it all by yourself.

All in all, the program is nicely done (if all that Barbie doesn't turn your stomach) and easy to use. The boys in the family might even want to try their hand at it too.

He'havevim Shel Kishkashia (Kishkashia's Friends), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, by the Israel Broadcasting Authority and Hed Arzi Multimedia, for the whole family, NIS 79.

Ratings: ★★★★★

Can teenagers be nostalgic about their past? Well, my two older children (aged 14 and 12) who watched reruns of old Israeli children's TV shows when they were pre-kindergartners could barely remember the names of the shows. But when I clicked the mouse and played out tunes from Kishkashia (a primitive, saucer-shaped puppet), *Dodli, Neighbors, Shehanat Haim and Here We Are*, they smiled and then remembered enough of the words to sing along.

It isn't clear whether this disk - produced by the IBA to commemorate 30 years of Israeli TV - wanted to evoke nostalgia among today's kids. Perhaps their real target was their parents - who were children when Israelis had only black-and-white sets. Educational TV was called Instructional TV, and cable TV and Second Channel commercials were only a dream (or a nightmare?).

The program works only with Windows 95, not an earlier Windows operating system. Twenty-eight songs from the Seventies and early Eighties are offered on this disk for your listening pleasure. The audio-only songs come with the option of clicking on text with details about the period when the show was broadcast, the producer, theme and stars. There are also 25 black-and-white video clips from shows: see Ofra Haza, Suzy Miller, Tzipory Mor, Seffi Rivlin, Makham Khoury and other stars - looking a lot younger. There's even a motherly Batya Uziel, who used to teach viewers arts and craft projects on the screen.

Nostalgia must be what the Broadcasting Authority was thinking about, as the graphic structure from which one chooses shows and tunes is the type of old-style wood buffer that used to grace many Israeli living rooms a few decades ago. For those who really think the old days were better than today, images of *Dodli* or the others can be kept as screen savers that will remain on your computer screen when you're not busy in this, or any other, program.

The day dad fell from grace

When children wake up one morning to realize that the parents they have idolized are criminals, scoundrels, cheats or frauds the shame and loss of trust can cripple the rest of their lives, Lynn Smith writes



Chelsea Clinton with her parents in a happy public moment: She 'held her head high' as her father dealt with embarrassing questions about his sexual liaisons and his honesty.

There are countless more children behind smaller headlines who wake up one day, look at the parents they have idolized, and have to consider that they might also be criminals, scoundrels, cheats or frauds.

Even if news of the adultery or crime remains private, therapists say many of their clients who have been through this feel as if their whole world has crumbled. If it appears the rest of the universe is watching them as well, the humiliation is compounded - particularly for self-conscious adolescents.

CHILDREN are devastated by a parent's fall from grace because they need to idolize them, according to Michael Nichols, a professor of psychology at Virginia's William and Mary College and author of *No Place to Hide* (Prometheus, 1995).

Young children require strong adults to be larger-than-life supports to help them grow and connect to the world.

Ordinarily, children gradually let go of the illusion that their parents are virtuous kings and queens. Nichols said, "It's the sudden revelation that's more likely to be damaging. The impulse is to hide, first from oneself, then from others."

In February, on the day the governor of Arizona was sentenced for falsifying records, attempted extortion and perjury, his youngest son came to watch.

The 15-year-old listened to prosecutors describe his father. Five Symingtons, as a con artist who swindled lenders to shore up a trail real estate empire. He saw his father - a rich and powerful man who had introduced him to life in the best box seats at the most

important football games - choke back tears and beg a judge to be lenient. He heard the judge sentence his father, who claimed his worst mistakes were innocent bookkeeping errors, to two years in a federal work camp and five years' probation.

Afterwards, while the governor was telling reporters that it "could've been worse," the boy stood off to the side, hugging his sister, sobbing.

Some adults involved in public troubles have tried to protect or prepare very young children for the bad news. In addition to unplugging the TV, grandmother Juditha Brown, who cared for O.J. Simpson's children during the trial, used to call stores an hour before she took the children shopping so the manager would remove tabloids with Nicole Brown

Simpson's pictures on them.

Bill and Hillary Clinton have said their strategy was to inoculate their daughter at a young age, role-playing nasty political accusations and warning her that people would say untrue things about her father.

Older children usually have to take the hits broadside. In some cases, they are urged to participate in a united front for the sake of appearances, posing for photographers or appearing in court regardless of their feelings.

"It can be a very lonely place," said Santa Monica, Calif., psychologist Paul Tobias. Those who can't hide at home or in boarding school retreat into denial, a "rescue mode" - or sometimes a simmering rage.

As reported in the *New Yorker*, Linda Tripp reportedly never forgave her father, a high school teacher, for his infidelities, which she endured during her high school years. Tripp was known to have leaked rumors of several acquaintances' marital infidelities before this year's revelations about Monica Lewinsky's private conversations triggered the public explosion of the president's sex life.

Other children, such as Richard Nixon's daughter Julie, insist their parents are the victims - of a political vendetta, a lying accuser or misguided journalists. Some adult children of Watergate figures are still said to call whistle-blower John Dean a liar.

For those who are not able to resolve the shame and loss of trust, the fallout can cripple their adult relationships.

Some feel unworthy of a committed relationship, some feel destined - or even expected - to repeat the same mistakes. Some become self-defeating personalities, the sort who always "snatch defeat from the jaws of victory," psychologist Tobias said.

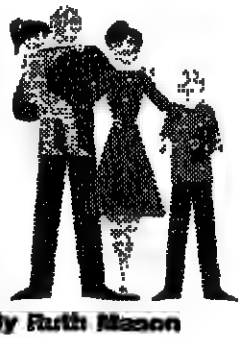
"We're talking about people whose self-esteem is chronically impacted by their parents' behavior. It takes a pretty mature adult to say, 'That's my mom, not me.'"

It took Tristan Lemons 15 years of intermittent therapy and a period of estrangement from her father, but she said she eventually forgave him and her stepmother. Even so, she said, "I will hold them accountable for the rest of my life."

"They made choices that affected me in a profoundly negative way... and I had to clean up that mess for myself."

(Los Angeles Times)

Instead of nagging, why not try a joke?



By Ruth Mason

Parenting

Tami D., a mother of three, keeps a secret weapon on hand for when times get rough: a plastic Groucho Marx-type mustache and black eyeglass frames. But that and you can't take any situation too seriously.

Tami got the mask after hearing a lecture by Loretta Laroche, a stress consultant who gives workshops in corporations throughout the US. Her primary antidote to stress? Laughter.

Laroche has come out with a program called Parenting with Humor. So here, for those of us who need a little comic relief from the stress of child-rearing, are some excerpts. Mixed in with the humor is more

than a little wisdom.

"There are ways to change things without resorting to conflict and anger. There really are. How many of you don't know how to deal with two little kids who are going at it with one another?"

"Don't try to make them stop with your nagging techniques. Go right over to them while they're at it, put on the Groucho Marx mask, and say: 'Run for your life!'"

"Body language is another way to have fun. Kids do it all the time. Start doing some of the things they're doing. I'm certain that if adults did some of these childlike things, they'd have less stress."

"Now, when something's going on in your house and no one's paying attention, instead of nagging, say 'What's bothering you?' and add a little swirl, or a tap dance. Maybe go around the house: 'Is anybody gonna have dinner?' (twirl) 'I hope you're gonna clean your room' (tap). You know kids get tired of hearing the same thing over and over again. Well, if it's done with a twist, they may pay attention."

"How many of you have a little boy who forgets to put the seat up? Or who likes to water the tiles? Maybe you'd like to put up a little

sign: 'Look before you leak!'"

"Keep a joy journal. Very important. It takes away from the concept that you're always waiting to be happy; [it instills the idea] that you could possibly be happy right now. Because that's all there is. This is not a dress rehearsal. So many of us are planning our life while life ebbs away."

"Also, look in the mirror. Get your kids to look in the mirror with you, and say something positive like 'Whoa! This is just incredible! And parts of me are excellent. Then give yourself a big 'TaDAH! Just like your kids do.'"

"Another thing you can do is get some validation. Parents are always feeling bad that they don't get the attention they need. And you do need attention, don't you? So many times I've heard, 'Oh, I do so much for my family. I'm always helping my family. I work hard for my family. I give them everything. When am I going to get my turn?'"

"Now we don't say it in so many words. We do funny things to get attention, like whining and moping and that kind of stuff. Much better to ask for a standing ovation. That's not dysfunctional. Whenever you're in a place

where you're feeling like you need some validation, just say, 'Look, I've had it. I need a standing ovation.' Do it with your family. Do it for each other."

"When you come home tonight and walk in the door, say, 'I'm back. And I want a standing ovation. I could have gone some place else. But I came here instead.'"

"And let your children do things for you periodically. Don't always go running around being the good soul [saying], 'Oh, I'll fix it, I'll do it.'"

"Some time when you come home from work, walk in the house and if the family says 'What's for dinner?' say, 'I don't know... I've already eaten. Fix yourself a little snack and bring me something.'"

"I don't think that's a lot to ask. The more you let go and allow children to do things and become autonomous, the better off they are. And that's really the goal of parenting, you know. It's to get them to leave."

"Now the last thing I would encourage you to do is: Create some things in your home that can bring about a lot of joy and laughter. You don't have to wait for

quality time. Spontaneity is better. Have a joy committee. Take turns being a 'jollyologist.' The family that plays together stays together."

"Have dinner in costume. Have a humor night. Go rent some funny movies and watch them and guffaw together. You know when you laugh for 10 minutes straight, you release endorphins which are chemical cousins to opiates - heroin and morphine."

"By the time you go to bed, you'll all be on a natural high. It's actually almost a work-out. It increases the volume of the blood, it lets the pulse go up, blood pressure goes up - and then it goes back down lower than before the laugh."

"You could actually lie on the sofa and get in shape watching Bill Cosby or Billy Crystal."

To get a few more laughs from Loretta Laroche, write to: The Humor Potential, Inc., 15 Teier Road, Plymouth, MA 02360. Tel: 800-99-TADAH. They have a catalog, video and audio tapes, books, T-shirts, and gadgets such as that Groucho mask.

Send your questions to Parenting Column, The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000 or e-mail: ruthmason@compuserve.com

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TASTE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

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Corner



By Batsheva Mink
and David Brauner

Tomatoes – so rewarding to grow your own

Tomatoes are so widely grown and enjoyed in Israel that it's easy to forget that they are not native plants. The tomato is the basic ingredient in hundreds of Italian dishes, so beloved the world over. In fact, it is safe to say that the ripe, red tomato has virtually revolutionized eating habits throughout the world.

The tomato (Aztec, *tomatl*) is a New World plant originating in South America. It came to Europe from Mexico only 400 years ago in the first half of the 16th century. For many years after its introduction it was grown purely as an ornamental plant with its European names like the Italian *pomi d'oro* ("apple of gold") and French *pomme d'amour* ("apple of love"). The Hebrew name *agvania* from the root *agav*, meaning "love," follows the French idea.

The botanical name *Lycopersicon esculentum* from the Greek, strangely translates as wolf (*lykos*) and peach (*persikon*), probably suggesting it was a wild, inferior fruit.

Botanically, the tomato is really a fruit, although we eat it as a vegetable. Our tomato, originally a ground trailing plant from Peru and Ecuador, is a member of the economically valuable *Solanaceae*.

This family not only provides us with those delicious tomatoes, but also eggplants, potatoes, peppers and tobacco.

However, every good family has its black sheep. In fact, this family has a whole flock of black sheep, including henbane, jimsonweed and mandrake – all of which are poisonous. The blackest of these blackguards is the deadly nightshade or belladonna, which is so poisonous that merely touching it can cause paralysis of the hands. Nevertheless, one of its compounds, atropine, is a relaxant which forms the basis of many beneficial medicines. In World War II, atropine was discovered to be the only antidote against a deadly nerve gas developed by the Germans, a weapon which remains a very real threat to this day.

Since the tomato plant is a member of the nightshade family (*Solanaceae*) and partly resembles the belladonna plant, for a long time Europeans were afraid to eat the fruit, and so, as we mentioned, grew them only as ornamental plants for many years. The resistance to eating tomatoes continued right up to the turn of the century.

The problem with the contemporary demand for the large, fruited, frost-sensitive tomato, as we now know it, is its need for the strong light conditions and warmth of its native habitat. Thus, in northern Europe most crops have to be grown under glass with heating and added lighting during the winter months. Over the last twenty years many horticultural methods for tomato-growing have been developed, mainly to avoid soil sickness and persistent diseases, such as virus infections to which tomatoes are highly susceptible.

Another relatively recent development is the breeding of numerous dwarf varieties from the wild tomato.



The fruits come in a variety of smaller sizes and shapes like plum, pear and even grape. The most popular one for home growing is the cherry tomato. It is true that tomatoes are cheap in the market in the summer months, so most people say it hardly pays, price-wise, to grow your own. Yet no garden is too small. Even if you have a terrace with space for only one or two buckets, it's thrilling to see long ropes of little cherry tomatoes hanging from the vine. And the homegrown taste is indescribable.

Tomato-growing is more of an applied art than flower-growing because the grower is constantly testing his or her skills in the most straightforward and sensible of ways – by eating the produce. Also, it can be a beautiful experience for your children or grandchildren to see and learn how plants grow (especially food crops), and for you to watch the expression on their faces when they pick their first fruits.

Tomatoes are one of the easiest of the fruiting vegetables to grow outdoors in the summer months, whether in the garden or in pots on the terrace.

There is an open choice between buying plants at a garden center or raising them from seed. By buying plants the choice can sometimes be limited. By growing plants from seed the selection is much wider, and you can raise several varieties at the same time.

If you decide to grow cherry tomatoes, remember that there are two kinds of plants – the tall and upright kind which need careful staking or the

bushy sort that usually does not need staking.

Sowing. Each gram of seeds is equivalent to around 150 plants or seeds. The optimum temperature for sowing seeds is 30 degrees C, but any temperature between 10-35 degrees C will do. Sow two seeds in one pot (the size of cottage cheese containers). If both take, discard the one at planting time. Plant the whole content of the pot in the ground, and there will be no setbacks for these fast-growing plants. The minimum temperature for germination should be 16 degrees C. The optimum temperature for growing is between 21-27 degrees C. Temperatures above 38 C will destroy the pollen, and no fruit will be obtained. You can sow anytime after March.

Position and light. Keep young plants in a light, warm place. When the evenings warm up, it is safe to transplant them outside in the garden or on the balcony in a position of full sun.

Planting out. First prepare the ground by digging it over and putting in plenty of organic matter (compost). Tomatoes are "heavy" feeders and quickly exhaust the soil of nutrients. When the evenings have warmed up, plant out

your well prepared patch in the garden. Plant the seedlings about 40 cm. apart. If you are putting your plants into large pots or buckets on the balcony, it is advisable to use, if possible, a clean potting mixture which you can buy in garden centers. Add a good sprinkling of slow release fertilizer on the surface of either pots or ground. Water the plants well, then leave them for a few days without water. This will encourage the roots to start searching and to build up a strong root system.

Watering. When the weather starts to get hot, the plants will need regular watering. Water pots every day. Once the little green fruit starts to show, do not let your plants go short of water.

Humidity. Spraying the plants with water increases humidity and lessens the risks of pests.

Feeding. After the first tomatoes have formed, it is time to start feeding. Liquid seaweed, special tomato feed or any all-purpose fertilizer is fine. Feed once a week. If you want a bountiful crop, you must feed the plant well.

Special treatment. If you are growing the taller varieties it will be necessary to tie the plants to a stake as they grow. First lightly tie the stem or raffia around the stem, twisting it into a figure eight, and then tie it around the stake loosely. This way, as the stem thickens, the tie will not act as a tourniquet. If you notice small shoots growing out of the axis of the stems and leaves, these will have to be removed. This way all the energy can go into the developing fruit clusters that are forming along the stem.

Pests and diseases. Tomatoes are likely to be affected by many problems. One of the most common is aphids which are very small insects that attack the leaves. The red spider mite may prove a pest, especially in very dry areas. A regular spraying with water will help discourage these insects. If you have a very serious insect attack, you will have to use an insecticide.

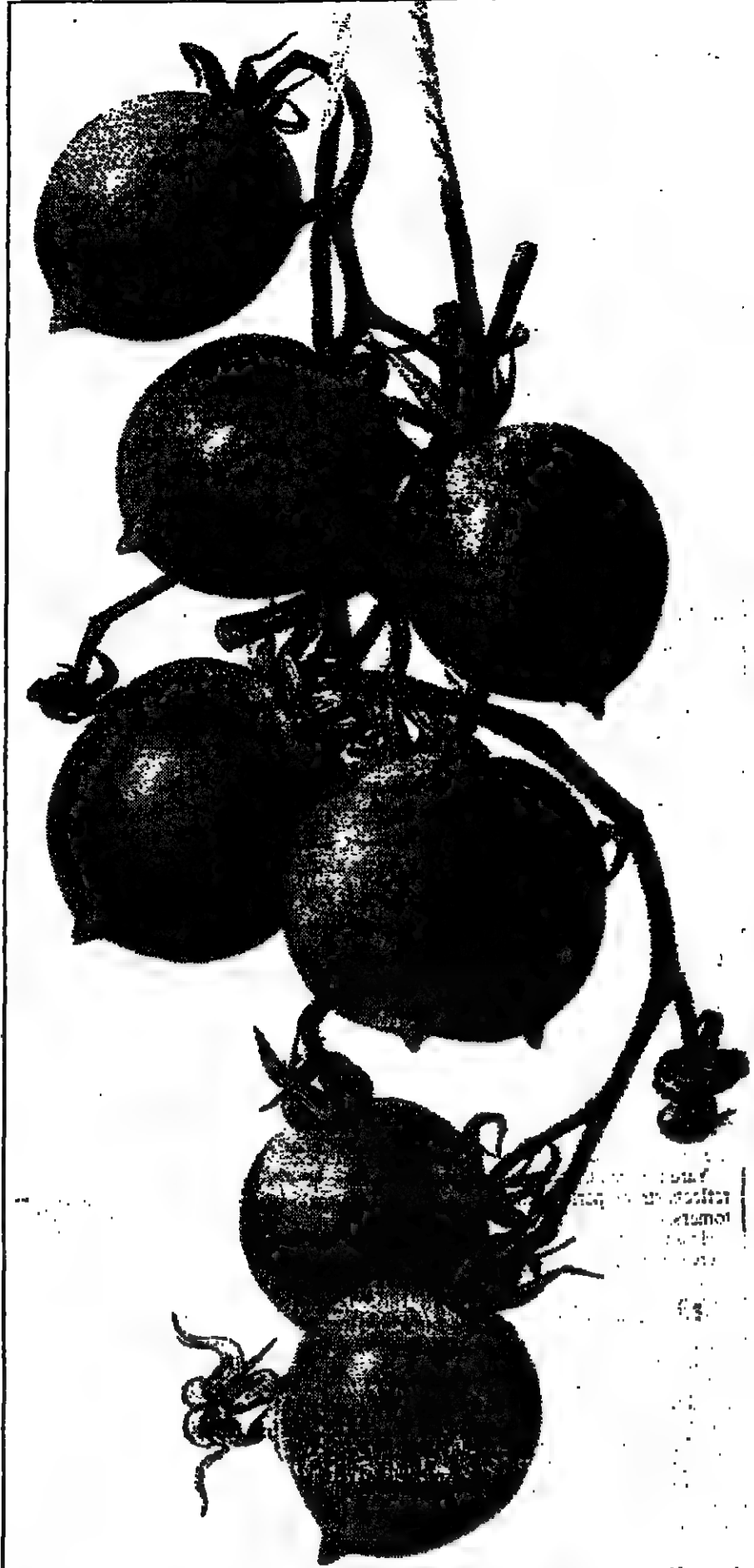
Viral diseases are very difficult to combat. Usually, the pests spread the diseases. Examine your plants on a regular basis. Viruses show up in the form of mottled leaves that start to look a little fern-like with lighter markings and stunted growth.

As soon as the fruits start to go red it is time to pick them. Pick them on a regular basis. If they become over ripe they will split and attract insects and birds.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: dmorir@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

TIP OF THE WEEK

One secret for growing healthy tomatoes is to plant the seedlings deeply in the garden soil. In fact, you can bury them up to half the length of the stem, covering the first leaves or branches, because the roots will form from there.



Can you imagine a typically Israeli salad without tomatoes? They are grown so widely here that one almost forgets they are not native to this country.

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Never, ever tug a rabbit by the ears

It isn't unusual for those trying to raise pet mice, rats or hamsters for the first time to find that, all too often, these rodents quite literally bite the hand that feeds them.

Many tales are told of nipped fingers, scratches and painful bites.

However, this problem is quite easily avoided because, when handled properly, small rodents can become very tame, and actually seem to enjoy being handled.

Of course, differences between species dictate how they naturally react to perceived danger, but there are some basic misconceptions about what an animal may perceive as a threat.

When threatened, mice and rats tend to flatten themselves on the ground in an attempt to "disappear." For this reason you should approach them from above and pick them up gently by the scruff of the neck, the way a mother animal usually picks up her young. The animal may then be transferred to the flat palm of the hand and stroked.

Never approach a mouse or rat from below, as it will almost certainly try to defend itself – and remember never to pick it up by the tail. This is both frightening and painful for your pet, and a sure way for you to get nipped.

Hamsters also fear danger from flying predators and larger enemies and, when approached from above, immediately roll over on their backs and try to defend themselves with tiny claws and sharp

front teeth. Place your hand flat on the surface in front of the hamster, then slide it under the animal and lift gently. Cavies and whistlers – both also called guinea pigs – usually do not bite, but appreciate gentle handling, as we all do, animal or human. They are best picked up by placing a hand around them from above, and lifting gently.

Small children should not be allowed to pick up rabbits until the animals are very tame and volunter to be handled.

Rabbits are very strong, and while they don't usually bite they can scratch badly with their sharp hind claws. While these scratches are painful and rather frightening, there is absolutely no truth in the oft-repeated assertion that they can infect you with rabies. Even health authorities blithely foster this belief, despite the fact that there is no record anywhere of anyone ever getting rabies from an animal scratch.

Always lift a rabbit with both hands – one on the scruff of the neck, the other slid under the nump – grasping both hind legs with the fingers of that hand because the rabbit scratches with its strong hind feet. From there, the rabbit may be slid back into the crook of the elbow, while both scruff and hind legs are still in your grasp. A rabbit feels secure in this position and will rarely struggle.

Finally, no matter how used we've become to seeing magicians pull rabbits out of hats by their



Sweet? Maybe – but they can nip if improperly handled.

(Joel Fishman)

ears, don't you ever do it! It is cruel and painful. A rabbit's ears are not handles to be tugged on, and you may inflict painful and permanent damage on your pet.

It is also good to bear in mind that while most rabbits are quite docile, one will occasionally turn out quite aggressive.

I had such a rabbit once. His name was Claude and he actually tried to attack a dog three times his

size. A rabbit like Claude is no pet for a child – or anyone else, for that matter.

All in all, a bit of understanding of the species you are raising plus a calm and gentle approach are all you need to enjoy your rodent pets.

I should just add that I do not think any rodents, except for cavies, make suitable pets for children under 12.



This child is risking a painful scratch. When holding a rabbit, grab its hind feet so that it can't harm you.

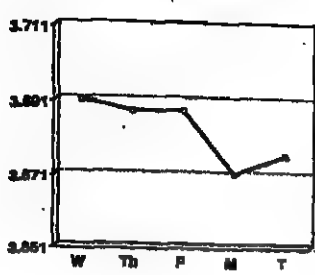
(Unlabeled photo by A. Bergall)

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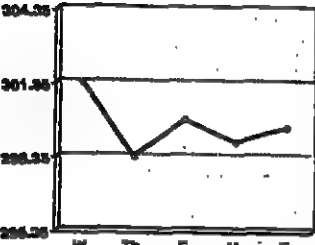
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DOLLAR / SHEKEL

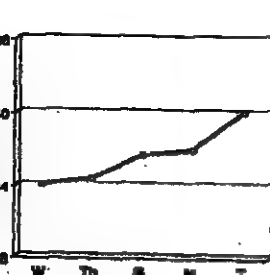


GOLD

\$ per ounce

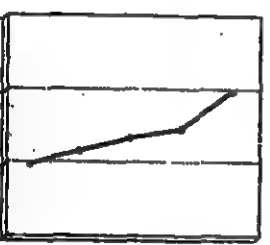


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OIL

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Wiztec 1st quarter net up 18%

Wiztec Solutions reported yesterday that first quarter net profit rose 18 percent to \$681,024 from \$537,855 a year earlier. Revenues for the quarter also increased by 18% to \$3.51m. from \$2.97m. during the corresponding period in 1997.

Yaron Polak, CEO of Wiztec, said the rise in profitability reflects strong performance from new projects and existing customers. He added that the Herzliya-based company has significantly increased its presence in the US.

Dan Gershenfeld

'Wall St. Journal': Soros may bet against pound

George Soros, the hedge fund manager who made more than \$1 billion betting against the British pound in 1992, could be making the same bet again, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing unidentified traders.

Soros's firm has bought \$6 billion to \$8 billion of sterling/mark "put" options that give it the right to sell pounds for German marks at a set exchange rate during a certain period.

The three-month put options give Soros the right to sell sterling at 2.65 marks and 2.70 marks, according to traders, the paper reported. The pound was trading around 2.8983 marks.

Bloomberg

Analysts: World reaction to nuclear tests could harm Indian economy

BOMBAY (Reuters) - India's vast, varied and closely followed emerging market might have been dealt a severe blow in the wake of the subcontinent's unexpected execution of nuclear tests, analysts said yesterday.

Indian markets took cover yesterday as the rest of the country cheered nuclear tests that have drawn condemnation worldwide.

The United States and Japan, the world's two most powerful economies, both said they are considering sanctions, while Britain said the European Union was "disgusted" by India's action.

The markets fear foreign currency inflows into India will slow if sanctions are imposed, putting pressure on the rupee.

"The real focus will be on the lack of inflows over the next two months, both from corporations and from governments into India," Mitul Kotachia, treasury economist at Standard Chartered in London, told Reuters Television.

An Indian-born foreign fund

manager derided the wave of patriotism that greeted India's demonstration of nuclear power as misplaced "jingoism."

"A real patriot would be more concerned about the possible opportunity cost to the economy," he said.

Sanctions mean export earnings could be hit, Indian companies could face more hardship raising money abroad, and foreign direct investment - already low - could dwindle.

Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha spent his first two months in office reassuring foreign investors they have nothing to fear from the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition.

Now his government's action will come under scrutiny when leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) nations meet in Britain on Friday.

"I have absolutely no indications at this point of time that the flow of foreign investment is going to be affected as a result of [the tests]," Sinha told reporters in

New Delhi.

Sinha, who presents his first budget on June 1, needs private investment, particularly from abroad, to help an economy whose growth rate slid to 5.1 percent in 1997/98 (April-March) after racing over 7% in the previous three years.

The government has a fiscal deficit of 6.5% of gross domestic product (GDP), according to newspaper reports, and no money to spend in key areas like infrastructure.

In 1997/98, 48% of total revenue went towards interest payments, defense took 26%, salaries 15% and subsidies 13%.

India relies on foreign capital inflows to cover a current account deficit which, according to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), rose to \$5 billion in 1997/98 from \$3.73 billion the previous year.

CMIE said it expected net foreign capital inflows in 1997/98 to total \$8.2 billion against \$9.55 billion the previous year.

But foreign portfolio investments have shown net outflows from India in four of the last six months, and data released yesterday showed the trend continued in the first week of May.

Standard & Poor's, the international debt rating agency, yesterday reaffirmed India's debt rating at BB+, which is just below investment grade. But it warned it could review the rating if sanctions were imposed.

"Sanctions could change things," said Ashok Bhatia, associate in sovereign ratings at S&P in London.

Moody's Investors Services is expected to announce soon if it is downgrading Indian debt to below investment grade.

The fund manager cautioned against second-guessing how investors will react to the furor that has accompanied the nuclear tests, saying "A lot depends on how the diplomatic scene shapes up in the next few days."

Most analysts said the most con-

sultatory step would be for India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, now that it has flexed its nuclear muscle.

Markets had regained their composure by the end of the day on hopes that diplomacy could reduce international anger at India.

But dealers and analysts suspected authorities may have had a hand in the currency and stock markets' performances.

State Bank of India (SBI), which is often regarded in the country as a surrogate for the central bank, was a heavy dollar seller keeping the spot rupee/dollar rate steady.

The rupee closed at 39.76/77 per dollar on yesterday, unchanged from its previous close.

The National Stock Exchange top 50-index fell more than 5 percent at one stage, but rallied to close less than 2 percent weaker.

"The market's resilience was due to government-instructed buying by certain institutions," the fund manager said.



Budgetary bliss

Traders at the Sydney Futures Exchange react yesterday as Australia's State Treasurer Pete Costello delivers his budget to Parliament in Canberra. The government unveiled the first budget surplus in almost a decade.

(Reuters)

MKs approve Jubilee Assoc. half the funds it requested

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved the transfer of NIS 12.5 million from the general budget reserve to the Jubilee Association.

This was 50 percent less than the NIS 25m. requested. The committee decided, however, to discuss the matter again next week and asked association general manager Doron Shmueli to provide more information.

Shmueli said that the association has received NIS 49m. of the NIS 120.75m. approved. He said that the controversial *Jubilee Bells*, which was originally budgeted at NIS 27m., cost NIS 12m., 40 percent of which was paid to artists participating in the show.

He said that 12,000 people attended the event and another three million watched it on television.

Shmueli added that the Jubilee Exhibition, which will cost NIS 27m., is expected to generate an income of some NIS 15m.

Other events which are expected to take place in the near future include the Jubilee March, which will cost some NIS 27m.

Concerning reports about misuse of funds, Shmueli said that he has approached asked the state comptroller to examine the association's activities.

El-Op upgrades T-72 tanks

By STEVE RODAN

El-Op Electro-Optics Industries has been upgrading dozens of T-72 tanks for an unnamed Central European nation, executives said yesterday.

The Rehovot-based company disclosed that the deal was signed in 1996 and involved the modernization of 40 T-72 tanks in a \$40 million project.

El-Op's role is to install a fire-control system, including the thermal elbow sights which the company has used in previous upgrades of the T-72, T-80, and T-55 Soviet-made tanks.

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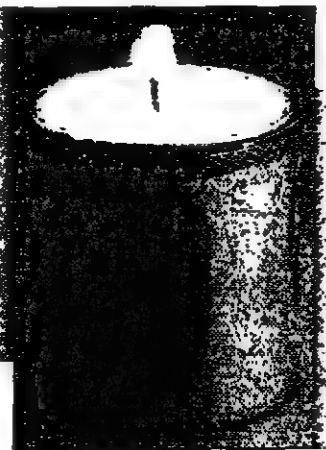
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Cabinet pushes bill for municipal accountability on budget breaches

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The cabinet yesterday stepped up its bid to make municipal councils more accountable by moving ahead with a plan imposing sanctions against local authorities which build up large deficits.

This decision was taken while Union of Local Authorities in Israel (ULAI) leaders were beginning a hunger strike outside the Treasury and threatening to block the entrance until an agreement is reached releasing funds.

The dispute centers on the Finance Ministry's refusal to allow the transfer of funds to the councils unless they continue to implement a promise made by their heads in June, 1997 to make across-the-board efficiency savings.

The cabinet affirmed its plan to

push ahead with the second and third readings of a bill approved in June by the Treasury, Interior Ministry and ULAI.

Under the terms of the June deal among the ULAI, Treasury and Interior Ministry forming the basis for the bill, the Treasury was to make a one-time NIS 300 million payment to local authorities last year. This was to be followed by NIS 500m. this year and NIS 200m. in 1999. At the time of the deal, the municipalities had an overall budget deficit of NIS 4 billion.

The agreement stipulated that these transfers take place on condition that local authorities balance their books and do not accumulate large deficits, take action on pay excesses, downsize and implement efficiency drives.

The ULAI issued a statement last

night saying that the Treasury has agreed payments will recommence today and as a result the organization was ending its protest. It called the renewal of transfers "a victory for the people" and promised better, more efficient services as a result.

In January last year the ULAI called for the immediate resignation of Treasury Wages and Labor Agreements Director Yossi Kucik, following the publication of his third annual Public Bodies Salaries Report, which accused councils of building up huge debts and lead to the introduction of legislation.

Although the document suggested that 89 percent of local authorities were paying wages above the Treasury-set guidelines, according to the union only 1,500 workers, or 1.8% of employees are receiving too much pay.

Negev oil rig said near target

By DAVID HARRIS

A oil rig near Sderot is closing in on its target area, with great optimism of a considerable find, according to Isramco Inc.'s US spokesman John Swanson.

"They're hopeful this will be a large structure, they're not interested in a 200-barrels-a-day structure," Swanson said.

The Gevim-1 well is expected to hit the target zone at 44,000 meters next month, with the hydrocarbons thought to extend to 45,000 meters, according to seismic studies.

The cost of the operation was estimated at \$6 million and so far there have been no indications of additional costs, said Swanson.

Some two years ago, a test drilling was carried out in the area but found nothing.

Both the National Infrastructure

Ministry and Israeli exploration companies say they are convinced this field contains considerable amounts of oil both on- and off-shore.

However, underwater work is proving more costly and allegedly beset by difficulties posed by the military. Furthermore, given the worldwide level of off-shore exploration, there is a long waiting list for the relevant equipment, including the key rigs.

Isramco owns a 1.0043% working interest and an overriding royalty interest of 5% before payout and 13% after payout on the first 10% of the Isramco-Negev 2 Limited Partnership's 77.9957% interest in the well.

The other participants are Israel Oil Company Limited Partnership (14%), Delek Limited Partnership (3%), and Naphtha Israel Petroleum Corporation (4%).

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The Business Scene

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Likud MK Avraham Hershenson, who heads the Knesset lobby for the quality of the environment, together with members of the Green Lobby, which encompasses 34 organizations dedicated to environmental causes, was given a guided tour of Haifa by the city's Mayor Amram Mitzna. Mitzna outlined plans about what his municipality is doing to rid the Kishon River of pollution.

Michael Molloy, Canadian ambassador to Jordan and Farouk al-Haddadi, senior executive with JEDCO, the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Center Corporation, will participate this week in the Shenkar College Board of Governors meeting to clarify a new program for training Jordanian textile workers and managers at Shenkar. Shenkar President Prof. Amotz Weinberg and Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky have already discussed the matter with Jordanian authorities, putting an emphasis on promoting growth within the textile industries in both countries through the formation of cluster enterprises which would work cooperatively. Such joint ventures, it is envisaged, would create competitive blocs that would rival those in other parts of the world.

Peter George, chairman and CEO of Ladbroke PLC, joined Alfred Akroff, chairman of the Board of Akroff (Israel) Ltd., and Ronnie Fortis, general manager of the Jerusalem Hilton, in officially inaugurating the hotel, this week. Some 1,500 people were invited to the gala event. The guests of honor were President Ezer Weizman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Moshe Katzav and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. Akroff's company built and

owns the hotel, and is currently building another Hilton across the road from the Jerusalem Hilton. The Hilton chain is owned by Ladbroke.

The name of business tycoon Ted Arison is increasingly linked with the educational, scientific and medical projects to which he has contributed tens of millions of dollars through the Arison Foundation. This week, he received more than a plaque on a wall in return for his investment. The Haifa Technion awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Dov Rakia has been promoted from sales manager of the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza to director of sales for Sheraton Israel. Rakia, who has a BA in international relations and urban geography from the Hebrew University, has held several senior posts at the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza.

Former Justice Minister Haim Zadok is the new head of the steering committee of Sena, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that prepares information and position papers for decision makers and parliamentarians, and operates in conjunction with the Israel Economic and Social Research Institute. He replaces the late Chaim Herzog, former president of the State, who died just over a year ago.

Eyal Tur has been named marketing director for Walt Disney Israel. He will be responsible for the marketing, sales, promotion and public relations for Disney products. He will enter into franchise arrangements with companies producing items that bear the likeness of Disney characters. Tur, 35, was previously a consultant to Disney and other companies that produce consumer items for children.

Investing in the contrary

To get the best return on your money in Wall Street's raging bull market, states one theory, find out what the experts are doing – and do the opposite

By JAMES K. GLASSMAN

In February 1970, more than 2,000 top money managers gathered for the Institutional Investors Conference at the New York Hilton. Someone decided to poll them to find the stock they thought would be the best performer for the year ahead.

The consensus choice: National Student Marketing, a high-flier that was then trading at \$140 a share. By July, it had collapsed to \$7. Not much later, it was out of business.

I first read this little anecdote 19 years ago in a book called *Contrarian Investing Strategy*, by David Dreman. I was hooked. I became a ferocious convert to contrarianism – the style of investing that finds what the experts are doing and then does the opposite.

Dreman is the king of the contrarians, and his book was filled with stories and surveys that showed convincingly that the crowd of professionals was wrong more than it was right, and that smart investors could make money off their mistakes.

One of my favorite Dremanisms was a table of 51 forecasts between 1929 and 1976. Nine groups of experts picked the stocks or industries they believed would be the best over the next year. Not only did they fail to pick the best; they failed to pick the average. A total 77 percent of their choices underperformed the market as a whole.

Over the past 20 years, loads of research has supported Dreman's earlier contentions. For example, it is now undeniable that stocks with low price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios – in other words, stocks that investors are shunning – do better than stocks with high P/E ratios. Stocks with low price-to-sales ratios, or with high dividend yields – all signs of value.

Dreman put his principles to work managing the money of wealthy investors and pension funds. Then, 10 years ago, he started a fund he recently sold to Kemper. It's called Kemper-Dreman High-Return, and it's returned an annual average of 32.8% over the past three years – compared with 31.7% and 23.6%, respectively, for the Standard & Poor's 500 index. That's very impressive, considering the fund is 24% less risky (by one measure) than the S&P.

In the contrarian style, Dreman's portfolio is heavily weighted

toward tobacco stocks (Philip Morris Cos. is his top holding and UST Inc., maker of snuff, is second) and energy stocks (Atlantic Richfield Co. is third). His fund is also highly concentrated – 50 stocks, with more than one-fourth of the assets in the first six – and has very low turnover (12% annually, meaning he holds the typical stock for eight years).

But it is Dreman the thinker, not Dreman the fund manager, who interests me. He published a follow-up book with only a few revisions in 1982, and, since then, fans have been waiting for the next installment, contenting themselves with his excellent column in *Forbes*. Just this week, the new book is coming out: *Contrarian Investing Strategies: The Next Generation* (Simon & Schuster).

It updates the tales and figures in the earlier books, but it makes an important new contribution. Dreman has come up with a novel way to analyze risk, and risk is the great misunderstood variable in investing.

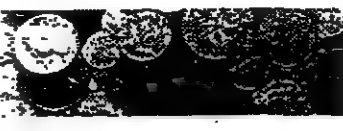
Risk isn't easy to understand, but in financial terms it is best defined as volatility. Think of it this way: Stocks have returned an annual average of 11% (dividends plus price appreciation) over the past 72 years, according to research by Ibbotson Associates of Chicago. Now, imagine two different stocks – one that returns 11% year after year and another that wildly fluctuates, one year up 50%, the next year down 40%, but again, averaging 11% annually.

The second stock is deemed highly risky, and there are ways to quantify its volatility – through beta coefficients, which compare the stock's ups and downs to those of the market as a whole, or through standard deviation, which tracks the stock's consistency against its own track record.

Take, for instance, a stock that has returned an average of 13% annually over the past 30 years with a standard deviation of 20%. This means that in two-thirds of the years, the stock returned between -7% and +33 percent. A stock with the same average return but a standard deviation of 35% would fluctuate two-thirds of the years between -23% and +43%.

There are two problems with volatility: First, it frightens investors into selling when they shouldn't. Second, it means you can't hold a portfolio with a high proportion of stocks if you need to cash them in soon (say, in the next five years).

PERSONAL FINANCE



But such risk measures as standard deviation are crude tools.

Dreman goes further. "A realistic definition of risk," he writes, "recognizes the potential loss of capital through inflation and taxes, and would... tell us the probabilities that we will both maintain our purchasing power and do better than alternative investments for the period we chose." In other words, a better way to measure risk is not simply to look at gyrations but at the chance you'll lose your purchasing power and at the chance you'll lose ground to bonds and money-market funds or Treasury bills.

Dreman also believes that these risk measurements should be longer-term than beta and standard deviation, which generally look at one-year periods.

WITH ORIGINAL research, Dreman has come up with some startling results, which he lays out in great detail in his book.

For example, if you hold a diversified stock portfolio for 10 years, the probability is 76% that you will get a return that's at least half the return of the overall market – or at least 53%, after inflation. (I realize this is not an easy concept, so just read the sentence over again. Got it?) Okay, now Dreman compares these results with the returns for a bond or T-bill portfolio. On average, bonds produce a total return of 9% (again, after inflation) and T-bills, 4%, over five years.

So, to recap: The chances are better than three out of four that you'll get a return over 10 years that is half the average market return. But half of the market return for stocks is still nearly six times greater than the full market return for bonds!

Dreman also analyzes stock, bond, and T-bill investments after taxes. The results are even more stunning: Let's go out 15 years. For that period, the probability that you will get an average market return in stocks is a hefty 63%. That total return comes to 92%, after inflation and taxes. But the return for bonds over 15 years is 24%.

"The conclusion," writes Dreman, "is obvious.... Using this

analysis of risk in the postwar period, stocks are the least risky investments over time. If you are in your thirties, for example, and have a goal of retiring at 65, you should buy blue-chip stocks because you have a 100% chance of both preserving and enhancing your capital, as well as outperforming bonds and T-bills.

That's not all. The odds, he writes, "are still overwhelming at 15 years and reasonably good at four or five years. From a risk perspective, bonds and T-bills give you increasingly short odds after only a few years. They are not the investments you want to build your future upon."

So build your future on stocks – especially on contrarian stocks.

BUT WHICH ones? "One contrarian value investment idea is Seattle Film Works," writes Rex Takasugi in his Kent, Wash.-based newsletter *Technical Disciplines*. "The stock was certainly overvalued at its high of \$28.50, but has fallen about 72% in the last two years.... Return on equity is excellent, current ratio is solid and they have \$15 million in cash and long-term securities."

Another contrarian play is Southwest Airlines Co., the low-cost carrier. "Wall Street was disappointed that Southwest did not beat (earnings) estimates by a big margin," writes Dow Theory Forecasts, which rates it "a top buy." Shares have fallen 20% since mid-March, and Southwest's

P/E ratio is 17 – fairly modest for a company whose profits are up about 50% over last year.

Timothy Vick, who edits *Today's Value Investor* in Hammond, Ind., is a bargain hunter who is fond of Humana, Inc., the huge managed-care provider "as a turnaround candidate in a rebounding health-care field."

By conventional standards, Humana, at a P/E of 24, does not seem cheap, but its price/sales ratio is a mere 0.6 (a good rule of thumb is that a P/S below 1.0 is attractive), and earnings should be up 40% for the 12 months ended in July over the previous year.

As for contrarian mutual funds, I have long been an admirer of Greenspring, with a standard deviation of just 6.4% and a beta that's 64% below average, according to the Value Line Mutual Fund Survey, which crowns the fund with its top risk rating.

Greenspring is heavily weighted toward financial stocks, including Crestar Financial Corp. and Long Beach Financial Corp., but also owns some interesting high-techs, including Barringer Technologies, Inc., which makes sensitive security equipment that can identify explosives and which trades at a P/E of just 9.

Another large holding is Griffon Corp., which makes specialty plastic films for products ranging from disposable diapers to radar systems. So get the book, and get the stocks. (The Washington Post)

Courtaulds in talks for second takeover bid

Courtaulds Plc. said it's in talks over a second takeover bid from PPG Industries Inc. and a Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette buy-out that could trump a £2.26 billion (\$3.77b.) offer already accepted from Akzo Nobel NV.

Britain's third-biggest chemical company said PPG Industries is interested in buying Courtaulds' coatings business, while US investment bank Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette would buy the rest of the business, which includes textile fibers and polymers.

A counterbid would come amid continuing consolidation in the world chemicals industry as chemical manufacturers seek to cut costs and expand market share in higher-margin businesses like paints.

Courtaulds is the world's lead-

ing maker of marine and aerospace coatings.

"Akzo is already paying a full price, and it looks like they may have to pay more," said Michael Stone, analyst with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in London.

Stone said the approach by Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-based PPG isn't a surprise, given earlier market speculation.

"The fact that they have a partner interested in the fibers business makes the approach credible."

Akzo declined comment on the prospect of a bidding battle for Courtaulds, saying only that it would act "in the interests of shareholders."

Courtaulds said no offer has yet been received. It would make a further statement "in due course." (Bloomberg)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1998 (%)	1997 (%)	1996 (%)	1995 (%)	1994 (%)	1993 (%)	1992 (%)	1991 (%)	1990 (%)	1989 (%)	1988 (%)	1987 (%)	1986 (%)	1985 (%)	1984 (%)	1983 (%)	1982 (%)	1981 (%)	1980 (%)	1979 (%)	1978 (%)	1977 (%)	1976 (%)	1975 (%)	1974 (%)	1973 (%)	1972 (%)	1971 (%)	1970 (%)	1969 (%)	1968 (%)	1967 (%)	1966 (%)	1965 (%)	1964 (%)	1963 (%)	1962 (%)	1961 (%)	1960 (%)	1959 (%)	1958 (%)	1957 (%)	1956 (%)	1955 (%)	1954 (%)	1953 (%)	1952 (%)	1951 (%)	1950 (%)	1949 (%)	1948 (%)	1947 (%)	1946 (%)	1945 (%)	1944 (%)	1943 (%)	1942 (%)	1941 (%)	1940 (%)	1939 (%)	1938 (%)	1937 (%)	1936 (%)	1935 (%)	1934 (%)	1933 (%)	1932 (%)	1931 (%)	1930 (%)	1929 (%)	1928 (%)	1927 (%)	1926 (%)	1925 (%)	1924 (%)	1923 (%)	1922 (%)	1921 (%)	1920 (%)	1919 (%)	1918 (%)	1917 (%)	1916 (%)	1915 (%)	1914 (%)	1913 (%)	1912 (%)	1911 (%)	1910 (%)	1909 (%)	1908 (%)	1907 (%)	1906 (%)	1905 (%)	1904 (%)	1903 (%)	1902 (%)	1901 (%)	1900 (%)	1899 (%)	1898 (%)	1897 (%)	1896 (%)	1895 (%)	1894 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Giving it all keeps English soccer on top

THE sight of Coventry City manager Gordon Strachan screaming at his players during the 1-1 draw at Everton on Sunday, was a poignant indication as to why the English Premiership is feared the world over as the best league in the world.

Coventry, who normally spend the final day of the season untangling the relegation shackles, found themselves this time in an unusual mid-table position with no interest in UEFA Cup places nor relegation matters.

And yet, the way they came at Everton in the second half, having gone in a goal down at the interval, you would have thought that City's very existence depended on the outcome of a game which meant nothing to them.

Strachan, whose older son is in the senior Coventry squad and younger 15-year-old is in the youth team, was quoted by *The Observer* as saying to his wife: "Me and the missus are breeding our own team. I got home last week and said, 'c'mon we need a center back.'"

The Everton game finished 1-1 which meant that Bolton, who lost at Chelsea, were relegated to goal difference. The television cameras picked up the mood of the moment with close-ups of Bolton fans in tears, and there were muted comments about how the team had been 'robbed' of their place in the Premiership after a 'goal' by Gerry Taggart was not given in Bolton's game at Everton earlier in the season.

Television cameras, on that day, clearly showed Taggart's head crossing the Everton line, but the truth of survival in the Premiership

was summed up by relegated Bolton boss Danny Wilson as succinctly as possible: "The table does not lie." Bolton finished with same number of points as Everton but they conceded five more goals, and they never really had enough strike power to keep the momentum going.

In the end, it was the three promoted clubs who went straight back down, one senses that the same will not happen next season with Nottingham Forest and Middlesbrough.

Strachan, whose older son is in the senior Coventry squad and younger 15-year-old is in the youth team, was quoted by *The Observer* as saying to his wife: "Me and the missus are breeding our own team. I got home last week and said, 'c'mon we need a center back.'"

With that kind of return, it's difficult to understand how the Hammers didn't finish as champions.

ONE of the strangest sights of the season was the surreal photo of the former Liverpool defender Tommy Smith wearing a neck brace with an attached halo.

In his playing days for Liverpool,

Smith was known as the Iron Man because of the no-nonsense treatment he handed out to the opposition. But these days the 53-year-old is wheelchair bound, the victim of osteo and rheumatoid arthritis.

As if that isn't enough, last month Smith was involved in a car crash which nearly cost him his life, but left him with a broken collar bone, broken ribs and a fracture to the spine which the halo is supposed to heal.

All of this pales into insignificance, however, when one considers the bizarre story of Smith and the Department of Social Security saga, the climax of which last week in an appeal defeat which prompted the tabloids to go to town. His weekly disability benefit of £132 was reduced to just over £13 by a tribunal who had demanded a cut after Smith had taken part in a charity penalty shoot-out prior to the 1996 FA Cup final.

Smith's solicitor pointed to the excruciating pain his client was in during the charity event, to the extent that he was dragged up with painkillers. A consultant rheumatologist's assessment that Smith was unable to walk more than 20 yards was rejected by the tribunal. With more than a hint of sarcasm, Smith believes his downfall may have been the work of an irate Everton fan. "Apparently, this DSS official was going round bragging that he's got Tommy Smith's benefit

stopped," Smith told the *Sunday Mirror* newspaper at the weekend.

This weekend's FA Cup final will be the first televised final not to be broadcast live on the BBC. Instead it will be shared between Sky TV and ITV.

The House of Commons All Party Sports Group was taking evidence about listed events last week, and BBC commentator Barry Davies pulled no punches in defence of public service broadcasting tradition. "You could invite some friends, get in a few beers, and join the 80,000 lucky ones present. And the singing of Abide With Me will stir you and you'll be ready for kick-off. A pity that the illusion will be shattered with a commercial break."

THE South African cricketers start their tour of England today with the traditional opening fixture at Worcester.

Despite England's poor recent form, the five-Test series is a near sell-out and the England players should be showing plenty of commitment with the winter tour to Australia coming up.

The England selectors last week opted for Alec Stewart as the replacement for Michael Atherton to captain the side. At 35, Stewart is a controversial choice, not simply because of his age. There are few precedents of successful wicket-keeping captains, and given Stewart's crucial batting role, it is asking a lot of the player to deliver the goods.

Essex's Nasser Hussain is considered by many as a better bet, having led a successful A tour to Pakistan.

Chelsea, Stuttgart meet after seesaw season

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - The fortunes of Chelsea and VfB Stuttgart, who meet today in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup, have run in parallel through a seesaw season for the two clubs.

Both started the competition as the favourites to reach the final and neither disappointed the bookmakers. Both ended the season in fourth place in the league, with the comfort of knowing that win or lose in Stockholm they are guaranteed a place in the Europa next season through the UEFA Cup.

Both sides relied on foreign talent to press their European claims and both suffered backroom upheavals during the season, with Chelsea sacking Ruud Gullit and installing Gianluca Vialli, and Joachim Loew enduring a dressing-room revolt.

Both suffered crises of confidence mid-season with Stuttgart dropping to 10th place and Chelsea suffering a string of poor results and an ignominious drubbing by Manchester United in the FA Cup.

Neither side has a great European pedigree. Chelsea's only trophy was the Cup Winners' Cup 27 years ago, won after a replay against Real Madrid in Athens when Peter Osgood, Charlie Cooke and John Hollins were working their magic for the London club.

Stuttgart, despite winning four championships and three German Cups, have reached only one European final and then they came up against Diego Maradona's Napoli in the UEFA Cup in 1989 and were beaten.

There, some would say, the paral-

els end. "Neutrals would look at us and say we've got very creative players and are a side with more flair," Chelsea's England defender Graeme Le Saux said.

The FA Cup holders have proved one of the most exciting sides in any league this season, carrying on Gullit's philosophy of "total football" with every player willing and able to push forward.

Their enormous payroll includes high-profile names such as player-manager Vialli himself, alongside Italy internationals Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo.

They also boast the talents of France defender Frank Leboeuf and four other players likely to figure in the World Cup this summer - Ed De Goeij the Dutch goalkeeper, Frank Sinclair playing for Jamaica, Dan Petrescu for Romania and Tore Andre Flo for Norway.

Stuttgart also boast top international players in Bulgarian midfielder Krasimir Balakov, considered by many the finest playmaker operating in Germany, Croatian international Svoimir Soldo and Nigerian striker Jonathan Akpobor.

At the back, Thomas Berthold, who earned 62 caps for Germany adds experience, and Fredi Bobic who is likely to be in Bert Vogts's squad for France, is always a danger up front. He has scored six goals in the four rounds of the competition so far.

"They will be very strong," Vialli predicted. "Physically solid, mentally very controlled and they work hard," he added.

Balakov is a great player with great imagination. He makes the

others score goals." But none of the Stuttgart squad enjoys the high profile or the wage packets of Chelsea's top players.

There also appears to be a certain lack of enthusiasm among Stuttgart fans. Although 50,000 turned out to watch them beat Werder Bremen in the last match of the season on Saturday, the club sent back all but 1,000 of their 12,000 ticket allocation for the Stockholm final.

Fans blamed the difficult journey and lack of late flights for their apathy. Chelsea could have sold their 12,000 quota several times over and many ticketless fans are expected in Sweden merely to savor the atmosphere and hope to find a ticket on the day.

The Londoners hope that Zola, who has been in Italy for specialist treatment on a groin injury, will be fit at least for the bench. Vialli said he would wait until final training to make a decision on the diminutive Italian.

Graeme Le Saux and Frank Sinclair have also been injured in the run-up but may be fit by today. Stuttgart will be without two key players in Dutch libero and captain Frank Verlaet and defender Martin Sparring - both suspended - but will not be looking for excuses.

"We have the opportunity of winning the first European trophy in the club's history and I know the players will do their utmost to win," Loew said.

Probable teams: Chelsea - Ed De Goeij, Graeme Le Saux, Frank Leboeuf, Steve Clarke, Gustavo Poyet, Roberto Di Matteo, Michael Duberry, Dennis Wise, Dan Petrescu, Tore Andre Flo, Gianluca Vialli. VfB Stuttgart - Frank Wolfahrt, Thomas Schneider, Murat Yakin, Thomas Berthold, Marco Haber, Svoimir Soldo, Gerhard Poschner, Matthias Wagner, Krasimir Balakov, Fredi Bobic, Jonathan Akpobor.

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Sampras tries to put lapses behind him

By JENNIFER FRIEY

Pete Sampras has a fantasy about next December. The tennis season will be over. As usual, he'll have won a Grand Slam tournament or two. He'll be No. 1 in the world for the sixth consecutive year — a record. Maybe — just maybe — he'll even have a French Open title to treasure.

And he'll be on vacation. He'll leave his tennis rackets at home and go somewhere he can golf, and gamble, and maybe even sleep until noon.

"I won't pick up a newspaper," he said. "I won't even pay attention to tennis. I want to wake up — wake up late — and not do anything. I want to do what I want to do, what I want to do. I want to have fun. I want to have that, even for a little while."

Forgive Sampras his fantasies. It hasn't been an easy year. Last December — the one month he takes off at the end of the tennis season — he spent his time in twice-a-day rehabilitation, trying to strengthen the calf muscle he strained at the Davis Cup final in Sweden. And though he claimed to be ready to start a new season at the Australian Open, he wasn't. He lost there in the quarterfinals. Lost early at Indian Wells, lost early at Lipton in Florida in March, then lost his No. 1 ranking for the first time in nearly two years.

"This year hasn't been atrocious," Sampras said, "but it certainly hasn't been to where it should be."

Sampras made a whirlwind stop in Washington this past Friday to promote "USA Tennis Month" with a visit to the White House. While he hit balls on the White House courts with kids from the Washington Tennis Foundation — and stopped to chat for a while in a suite at the Hay-Adams Hotel — a private plane awaited him at National Airport. He was off that same night for Rome, where he plans to play in a clay-court tournament in preparation for the French Open, which begins in Paris on May 25.

The roughest — and potentially most rewarding — part of the tennis season is about to begin for Sampras, who is driven by the desire to win as many Grand Slams as possible, and who considers the French Open (the only one of the four Slams he has failed to master) among the few remaining goals he must conquer.

But after dominating Wimbledon last summer — in perhaps his best tournament performance ever — and after finishing the year safely ensconced at No. 1, Sampras has found himself in unknown territory this spring. And he blames most of it on December. Not the December of his fantasies, but the one he would prefer to forget.

The night after he injured himself playing Davis Cup singles in Göteborg, Sweden, Sampras was bitter and frustrated. The long tennis schedule clearly had taken its toll, and with Davis Cup play tacked on to the end, he saw his offseason whittled down to a few weeks. Throw in the injury, and he felt almost trapped.

"I was really upset," Sampras said of that night. "Really upset." He went home to Florida, and was unhappy. He couldn't walk. He couldn't play golf. He spent his days in a funk, waiting for his scheduled rehabilitation sessions. He couldn't do anything active until Christmas week, when he found himself back on the courts, trying to get in shape quickly for the Australian Open.

"In my mind, it was like I never got away from the game," he said. "I never got re-energized and passionate and excited about playing again. I went to the Australian Open just hoping to get through, and that didn't happen. And after, I think I felt a little burned out."

Sampras now admits that he lied when he said he was ready to play in Melbourne. His physical fitness was not what it should have been, and his mental commitment wasn't there either. And it didn't improve in the weeks afterward. Sampras's record so far this year is 21-5, but he has won only two tournaments, and he has lost relatively early in the tournaments that matter, such as Lipton.

"I've always said that to be good at this, you need three things," Sampras said. "You need to have the game, you need to have the heart and you need to have the mind. This year, the game's not really been there. And the heart and the mind, all that's sort of been in the middle somewhere."

Sampras said he came to that realization about a month and a half ago, after he lost to Wayne Ferreira in the third round at Lipton, and lost his No. 1 ranking after two weeks, but still, a lesson was learned.

Sampras realized he wasn't as focused as he should be. He realized that he had not been doing enough off the court to maintain his physical fitness. He decided to make some changes.

Sampras's major decision has been to put his house in Tampa on the market and move to Lake Nona, near Orlando, where he can reunite with Paul Etcheberry, his fitness coach from 1992 to '96. He also spent a lot of time thinking about how much the No. 1 ranking really means to him.

"I was disappointed because it shouldn't have happened," he said. "I can just blame myself, though, and the way I was playing and blame the whole three months. I wasn't playing that well. I wasn't in shape. It took that to make me realize I have to start working much harder off the court."

Sampras has three goals remaining: He wants to win the French. He wants to break Roy Emerson's record for most career Grand Slam titles (Emerson won 12; Sampras is at 10), and he wants to break the record he shares with Jimmy Connors for most consecutive years at No. 1. And he wants to achieve all that without losing sight of what became so obvious to him last December: He needs to find a way to achieve those goals still leaving time for things besides tennis.

"I have a life outside of the game, but I guess I felt as far as tennis was concerned, I didn't have any time to get away from the game," Sampras said. "I know I'm pretty consumed with the game, but it's not like I go to sleep watching videotapes of myself playing. I still see my family, my girlfriend (actress Kimberly Williams)."

One decision Sampras is weighing is how much commitment he should make to the Davis Cup, if any at all. Sampras said it's "definitely a possibility" that he will not play Davis Cup at all this year. It appears as if he has been gently testing the waters, trying to get a sense of how it would be perceived, publicly.

"I can't win either way," he said, knowing that, as the best US player, he is expected to represent his country at least in the third and final rounds. "So I don't know what I'll do."

For now, though, he feels better about himself, and about tennis, than he has since 1998 began. And he's going to start small with the breaks: This month, for example, he's going to take off the week before the French for the first time, and spend it knocking around Paris, rather than playing the ATP World Team Championship in Dusseldorf.

"Everything's real good," he said. "Obviously, this year hasn't been great, and there's a lot of room for improvement. But I feel like I'm confident. I feel like I'm fit. I'm going to just go to Paris, and give it a good ride."

(The Washington Post)



MOVING RIGHT ALONG — Montreal Expos F.P. Santangelo slides safely into third base past San Francisco's Bill Mueller.

Wood breaks 2-game streakout mark

PHOENIX (AP) — Kerry Wood made his own place in the record book.

The 20-year-old Chicago Cubs phenomenon, who tied Roger Clemens' mark by striking out 20 last week, set the major league record for strikeouts in consecutive games by fanning 13 Arizona Diamondbacks in a 4-2 win Monday night.

The major league record for strikeouts in two starts was 32, set by Luis Tiant in 1968 and matched by Nolan Ryan (1974), Dwight Gooden (1984) and Randy Johnson (1997).

But featuring a 97 mph fastball and a sharp slider, the rookie needed just seven innings to reach his total of 33 and blow past those other four pitchers.

Next up is the record for strikeouts in three straight starts — Ryan fanned 47 in 1974 and Gooden set the NL mark of 43 in 1984. Wood (4-2) is expected to make his next start this weekend at Cincinnati.

Wood, coming off his 20 strikeouts last Wednesday against Houston, gave up one run, five hits and one walk against Arizona. He also hit a pair of RBI singles before Terry Adams relieved to begin the eighth.

Wood won his third straight game and Rod Beck got his 10th save. Brian Anderson (1-4) was the loser as Arizona dropped its sixth in a row.

Braves 8, Cincinnati 1

Andrew Jones homered twice and Andres Galaraga added a three-run shot as the visiting Braves set a franchise home run record.

Jones's three-run homer in the first gave the Braves a franchise record 23 consecutive games with a homer. The NL record is 24 by the Dodgers in 1953, and the New York Yankees and Detroit Tigers share the major league record of 25.

The victory was Atlanta's 12th in 14 games. Greg Maddux (5-2) won his third straight start.

The three-homer barrage off Mike Remlinger (3-4) put Atlanta ahead 7-1 in the fifth inning.

Pirates 5, Rockies 2

Jason Schmidt won his fourth consecutive decision and Keith Osk had his first two hits and RBIs of the season to ruin Kevin Ritz's first start, leading host Pittsburgh to victory.

Schmidt (5-1) limited the Rockies to seven hits and two runs in seven-plus innings. He is already 24 months ahead of his 1997 victory pace, when he didn't win his fifth until July 25.

Jose Guillen went 3-for-4 — he is batting .563 (18-for-32) — as the Pirates won their fifth in seven games.

Pittsburgh scored solo runs in each of the first three innings against Ritz (0-1), making his first start since July 3.

He missed the second half of last season after needing surgery on his right shoulder, then began this season on the disabled list with shoulder inflammation.

Cardinals 7, Brewers 0

Todd Stottlemyre struck out 13 and Ray Lankford homered and doubled twice as St. Louis snuffed a four-game losing streak.

The Brewers lost in their first visit to Busch Stadium since the 1982 World Series.

Stottlemyre (4-3) allowed two hits in eight innings, retiring the final 18 batters, 11 by strikeout. He walked none.

Jeff Brantley pitched a hitless ninth, striking out one.

Lankford, who was in an 0-for-14 slump, hit a two-run homer and Brian Jordan and Ron Gant each hit their sixth home run.

Scott Karl (4-1) failed in his bid to become the first left-hander in Brewers history to start a season 5-0.

Astros 5, Marlins 2

Bill Spiers drove in the go-ahead run after a pair of sixth-inning errors, and the host Astros overcame the first complete game of Livan Hernandez's career.

Hernandez (2-3), the MVP of last year's World Series, struck out 11 hits and walked three. It was the 26th regular-season start for Hernandez, who did have one postseason complete game, a three-hitter against Atlanta in Game 5 of last year's NL championship series.

Shane Reynolds (3-3) scattered eight hits in eight innings, struck out seven and walked two as Houston won for the 12th time in 15 games. Billy Wagner pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Padres 2, Mets 1

Kevin Brown outdueled former Florida teammate Al Leiter, and Wally Joyner's bloop two-out single in the eighth inning lifted host San Diego past New York.

Brown (3-2) won for the first time in five starts, allowing one run and four hits in eight innings with six strikeouts and no walks.

Leiter (3-2) pitched a five-hitter, striking out eight and walking three.

Both helped the Marlins win the World Series title, then were traded during the offseason as part of Florida's payroll purge.

New York had won four straight coming in but hadn't played since Friday because of consecutive rainouts at home. The Padres, coming off a 5-6 road trip, won for just the second time in six games.

With the score 1-1, Tony Gwynn reached with two outs in the eighth on an infield single. Greg Vaughn walked on four pitches, and Joyner hit an opposite-field single.

Trevor Hoffman finished with a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

Phillies 5, Dodgers 2

Bob Abreu drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly, and Matt Beech pitched 6 2/3 strong innings for his first win of the season.

Host Philadelphia outthrew the Dodgers 15-5, with Beech going 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Abreu's sacrifice fly in the sixth off Darren Dreifort (0-4) broke a 2-2 tie as the Phillies (18-17) won their fifth straight and moved above .500 for the first time since April 16.

Beech (1-2) allowed just five hits. Mark Leiter finished for his sixth save.

Giants 7, Expos 2

Barry Bonds and Jeff Kent hit consecutive home runs and Kirk Rueter pitched six strong innings as San Francisco won its fifth straight home game.

Rueter (4-2) allowed one earned run on eight hits in defeating his former team for the second time in four tries since being traded to San Francisco midway through the 1996 season.

Rueter also benefited from San Francisco's defense, which turned five double plays.

Bill Mueller doubled twice to extend his career-high hitting streak to 15 games.

Rookie Javier Vazquez (1-4) was knocked out after four innings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Devil Rays 4, Indians 2

Rolando Arroyo pitched eight strong innings for his third straight victory and led Tampa Bay to victory.

The former Cuban national team star, coming off three-hit shutouts of Minnesota and Kansas City, allowed five hits, struck out five and walked one, sending the AL champions to their fourth straight loss.

Roberto Hernandez pitched the ninth for his fourth save in seven chances.

Arroyo (5-2) fell short of his bid to become the first rookie since Orel Hershisler in 1984 to throw three straight shutouts.

Cleveland scored in the first on Jim Thome's RBI single.

Dave Martinez scored Tampa Bay's first two runs. He homered off Dave Burba (3-4) to make it 1-1 in the first, then came home for a 2-1 lead in the fifth.

Orioles 4, Twins 0

Scott Erickson pitched a five-hitter against his former team, and Rafael Palmeiro and Roberto Alomar homered as visiting Baltimore won.

Erickson (4-3), who came into the game leading the majors with 71 hits allowed, handed the Twins their second straight shutout loss.

Minnesota has lost nine of 13. The Orioles have won three of four but only nine of their last 24.

Erickson, who also pitched his first shutout of 1997 at the Metrodome, struck out five and walked none to win for the first time since April 12. It was his 12th career shutout and his third complete game of the season.

Both Erickson and Bob Tewksbury (3-5) were perfect through four innings.

Rangers 8, Red Sox 2

Rusty Greer, Kevin Elster and Ivan Rodriguez all homered to

send host Texas over Boston for its fourth straight victory.

Juan Gonzalez drove in two runs with a groundout, giving him a major league-leading 48 RBIs. Rodriguez got his 1,000th career hit as Texas stopped Boston's three-game winning streak.

Most strikeouts, straight games
The most strikeouts recorded in consecutive games by one pitcher with the player's team, date, and combined innings pitched (in parentheses):
38 — Kerry Wood, Chicago (NL), May 6 and 12, 1998, 16 innings.
32 — Randy Johnson, Seattle, Aug. 8 and 16, 1997, 17 innings.
32 — Dwight Gooden, New York (NL), Sept. 12 and 17, 1984, 17 innings.
32 — Nolan Ryan, California, Aug. 7 and 12, 1974, 17.2 innings.
32 — Luis Tiant, Cleveland, June 29 and July 3, 1968, 19 innings.

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West Coast	300 000 000-0 0 0
World	300 000 000-0 0 0
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
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Calgary	300 000 000-0 0 0
Chicago	300 000 000-0 0 0
Cleveland	300 000 000-0 0 0
Colorado	300 000 000-0 0 0
Detroit	300 000 000-0 0 0
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Toronto	300 000 000-0 0 0
Washington	300 000 000-0 0 0
West Coast	300 000 000-0 0 0
World	300 000 000-0 0 0

Shearer cleared in kicking incident

LONDON (AP) — England captain Alan Shearer, charged last week by the Football Association with kicking an opponent, was cleared yesterday by the same body.

The incident occurred April 29 when television footage and newspaper pictures showed Shearer retaliating after a collision and kicking grounded Leicester player Neil Lennon in the face.

Shearer, who is known in England for his clean-cut image, escaped without a red or yellow card.

Yesterday the FA said the case against Shearer had not been proven after a three-person commission heard evidence from Lennon and a representative of Shearer.

A guilty verdict would have meant a short suspension next season from domestic soccer, although it would not have affected his participation in the upcoming World Cup in France.

The FA said the incident occurred as Shearer was making a "genuine attempt to free himself."

"The three-man FA commission... heard the case and found it not proven," the FA said in a statement. "In reaching its decision the commission accepted

that the incident was initially caused by Neil Lennon pulling at the shirt of Alan Shearer turning round and trapping his leg.

"The commission further accepted that the alleged incident of Alan Shearer swinging out with his left leg was a genuine attempt to free himself."

The incident is the latest to call in to question Shearer's clean-cut image.

Two months ago, Shearer was involved in an apparent bar-room scuffle in Dublin that left Newcastle teammate Keith Gillespie unconscious. Shearer denied punching him.

With his Newcastle club sliding close to relegation, Shearer had an angry confrontation on the field with Tottenham and former Newcastle midfielder David Ginola two weeks ago. The French star accused the England international of constantly fouling him and waging a vendetta against him.

Tottenham manager Christian Gross also said Shearer was responsible for breaking the nose of his Swiss defender Ramon Vega with his elbow.

Leicester manager Martin O'Neill furiously criticized Shearer after the incident with Lennon.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE	
BATTING	— Gwynn, San Diego, .373; DeBell, Houston, .371; Bichette, Colorado, .371; Guillen, Pittsburgh, .358; Mueller, San Francisco, .353; Guillen, Houston, .352; Olerud, New York, .352.
RUNS	— Biggio, Houston, 35; Chones, Atlanta, 34; DeBell, Houston, 32; Galaraga, Atlanta, 32; Lankford, Colorado, 30; Floyd, Florida, 29; Glavine, Philadelphia, 28; Castillo, Colorado, 28; Bagwell, Houston, 28.
RBI	— McGwire, St. Louis, 40; Castillo, Colorado, 37; Chones, Atlanta, 36; Galaraga, Atlanta, 35; Alou, Houston, 32; Bichette, Colorado, 31; Piazza, Los Angeles, 30; DeBell, Houston, 30.
HITS	— Bichette, Colorado, 62; DeBell, Houston, 53; Gwynn, San Diego, 50; Chones, Atlanta, 49; Vina, Milwaukee, 48; Sosa, Chicago, 48; Mueller, San Francisco, 47; Galaraga, Atlanta, 47.
HOME RUNS	— Castillo, Colorado, 14; Galaraga, Atlanta, 14; McGwire, St. Louis, 13; Chones, Atlanta, 12; Burke, Colorado, 11; Lopez, Atlanta, 10; Floyd, Florida, 9; Piazza, Los Angeles, 9; Young, Pittsburgh, 9; Bonds, San Francisco, 9.
STOLEN BASES	— Biggio, Houston, 15; Womack, Pittsburgh, 14; Ely, Young, Los Angeles, 14; Stynes, Cincinnati, 11; Clayton, St. Louis, 9; 8 are tied with 8.
PITCHING (5 Decisions)	— Lima, Houston, 6-1, .557, 2.82; Millwood, Atlanta, 5-1, .533, 3.46; Schmidt, Pittsburgh, 5-1, .533, 4.41; Hampton, Houston, 5-1, .533, 2.68; Tomko, Cincinnati, 4-1, .500, 2.85; Kar, Milwaukee, 4-1, .500, 3.55; Nen, San Francisco, 4-1, .500, 1.16; Jaden, Milwaukee, 4-1, .500, 3.77; Neagle, Atlanta, 4-1, .500, 3.60.
STRIKEOUTS	— Schilling, Philadelphia, 90; Wood, Chicago, 58; Stottlemyre, St. Louis, 58; Martinez, Los Angeles, 51; Kibrown, San Diego, 50; Reynolds, Houston, 49; Millwood, Atlanta, 47; Nomo, Los Angeles, 47.
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
BATTING	— I-Rodriguez, Texas, .396; Morris, Kansas City, .395; Segal, Seattle, .382; Thome, Cleveland, .355; Martinez, New York, .345; MVAughn, Boston, .340; McCracken, Tampa Bay, .338; JuGonzalez, Texas, .338.
RUNS	— Griffey Jr., Seattle, 34; Lofton, Cleveland, 30; Grivea, Oakland, 29; Jeter, New York, 29; A-Rodriguez, Seattle, 28; JuGonzalez, Texas, 28; WClair, Texas, 28; Martinez, New York, 28.
RBI	— JuGonzalez, Texas, 43; Martinez, New York, 36; Justice, Cleveland, 34; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 33; Palmer, Kansas City, 30; JKing, Kansas City, 30; Thome, Cleveland, 29.
HITS	— I-Rodriguez, Texas, 53; McCracken, Tampa Bay, 51; JuGonzalez, Texas, 51; MVAughn, Boston, 50; H-Morris, Kansas City, 49; Estrada, Anaheim, 47.
HOME RUNS	— Griffey Jr., Seattle, 15; A-Rodriguez, Seattle, 12; OLeary, Stevens, Texas, 9; JuGonzalez, Texas, 9.
STOLEN BASES	— TGoodwin, Texas, 14; BLHunter, Detroit, 12; Lofton, Durham, Chicago, 9; Knoblauch, New York, 9.
PITCHING (5 Decisions)	— Halling, Texas, 6-0, 1.000, 3.08; Sabershagen, Boston, 5-1, .500, 3.87; Wakefield, Boston, 4-1, .500, 4.32; Fassero, Seattle, 4-1, .500, 2.68; Cone, New York, 4-1, .500, 6.81; CFlinley, Anaheim, 4-1, .500, 2.41; Witt, Texas, 4-1, .500, 7.28; Key, Baltimore, 4-1, .500, 2.94.
STRIKEOUTS	— P-Martinez, Boston, 72; RJJohnson, Seattle, 68; CFlinley, Colon, Cleveland, 40.

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Yuri Ahronovitch celebrates his 65th birthday leading the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA in Tchaikovsky's fifth symphony with Julian Rachlin playing the Brahms violin concerto at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem tonight and tomorrow (8:30) with a concert preview one hour earlier.

Yuri Bashmet plays Bartok's viola concerto with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Yuri Temirkanov who also leads the orchestra in Kaminski's Symphonic Overture and Tchaikovsky's Manfred symphony. Tonight, tomorrow (7:00) and Sunday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and next Monday through Wednesday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30 unless otherwise stated).

The morning session (10 a.m.) "In Record Time", the international conference on Recording and the Record at the Jerusalem Music Center opens with Anthony Rooley speaking about "Virtual Reality" or the Sound Engineer as Alchemist, followed by Susan Tomes, on "Some Thoughts from the Performer's Side of the Microphone" and concludes with Benny Shuchin speaking about "Contemporary Music on Records Today". In the afternoon session (3:00) Gidi Boss talks about "Sound Perception: From Simple Object to the Evaluation of Musical Interpretation" and Ben Benfeld discusses "On Both Sides of the Microphone: Implications of Technological Intervention in the Artistic Process. All in English".

The semi-final stage of the Vera Rozsa-Nordell Vocal Competition for Israeli singers takes place today (2:00) at the Wise Auditorium on the Hebrew University Givat Ram Campus in Jerusalem.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ WAG THE DOG — It's less than two weeks before the presidential election and the Big He himself has been accused by an



Julian Rachlin plays the Brahms Violin Concerto in Jerusalem.

underage "firefly girl" of sexual harassment. Ace spin doctor Conrad Bream (Robert DeNiro) is called in by the White House to do something, and fast. So he jets to L.A. and hires a sun-tanned and successful Hollywood producer, played with hilarious brio by Dustin Hoffman, to help the Powers that Be distract the public by manufacturing a war against Albania — a war, that is, that will never take place, except where it really counts, on the TV screens of America's voters. Director Barry Levinson's smart-bomb of a political satire manages to be at once extremely funny and deeply disturbing in its portrayal of Washington as the greatest showbiz town on earth. The movie is slight, in its cynical way, but it stings. David Mamet and Hilary Henkin wrote the nimble script. With Anne Heche and Willie Nelson. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News flash
8:31 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Science
9:25 English
9:40 Mathematics
9:55 Geography
10:00 Programs for the very young
10:25 Environmental Studies
12:10 Scientific Literature
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:30 Animation

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Eilat and Uly and Zep 1
15:35 X Men
16:00 Bydler Grove
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:50 New Evening
17:30 Culture
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Matters
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:31 Around the World
19:31 Around the World
19:31 Around the World
19:31 Around the World

20:00 News

20:45 Conference Call
20:50 UEFA Cup Final preview
21:45 Soccer — European Cup Winners Cup Final

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee with Tel-Ad
6:50 The Third Time
7:00 The New Evening
7:00 The New Evening
7:00 The New Evening

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Sealing Stars
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sivas (pt)
8:00 Colours
8:00 One Life to Live
8:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
9:00 Days of Our Lives
9:15 Dulce Ana (pt)
9:20 Love Boat
9:25 Hart to Hart
9:30 John Larroquette
9:30 The 24th Annual Academy Awards
9:30 The 24th Annual Academy Awards
9:30 The 24th Annual Academy Awards

JORDAN TV (21)

18:00 Holy Koran
18:10 Mr. Bogus
18:30 Conan
19:00 Oshos
19:30 The End
19:30 The End
19:30 The End

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 If Someone Had Known (1995) — a policeman arrives at the scene of a crime to discover that his daughter has killed her abuser
13:05 Don't Tell the

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Gerbert
17:23 Creation Station
18:00 Family Album
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wall To Wall
19:00 Have Kids
19:30 Showbiz
19:30 Showbiz
19:30 Showbiz

CABLE

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
18:00 Arabic News
18:00 Arabic News
18:00 Arabic News

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
18:00 Arabic News
18:00 Arabic News
18:00 Arabic News

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Riding High
16:00 Mathematics
16:30 Graduation Trip to the Neger
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CHANNEL 5 (35)

6:30 Bodies in Motion
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CHANNEL 6 (36)

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CHANNEL 33 (63)

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PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30	News Around the Bonfire	News	Beverly Hills 90210	Family Matters	Wildlife			
20:00	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
20:30	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call	Conference Call
21:00	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview	UEFA Cup Final preview
21:30	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer	Soccer
22:00	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files	The X-Files
22:30	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake	Ricki Lake
23:00								

18:00 Time and Again: Launch of Apollo 12
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8:00 Open University
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18:00 Time and Again: Launch of Apollo 12
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THURSDAY IN THE POST

The Weekender - book reviews, what to do, where to go, recipes and restaurants, film, theater, chess, bridge and fashion

WINNING CARDS

in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing

Q A Q J
8 10 K 7

WINNING NUMBERS

in yesterday's weekly Lotto drawing

1 9 18 27
23 39 46

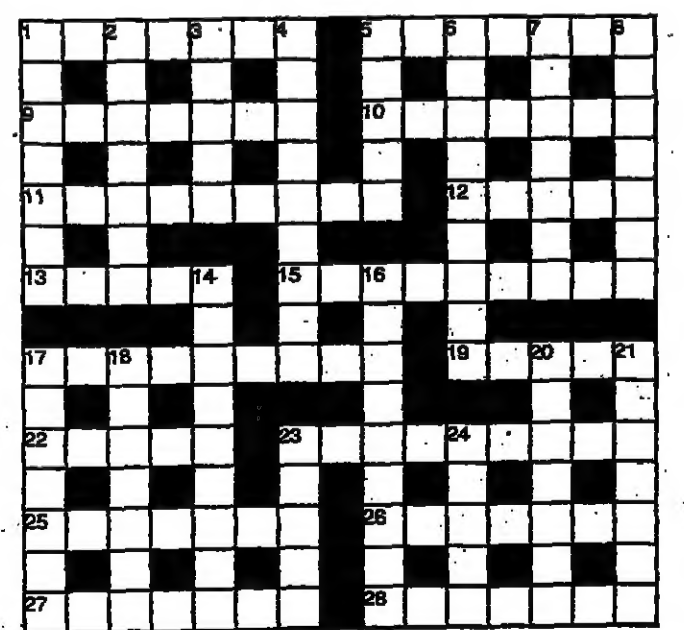
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Close a valve thus, perhaps (4,3)
- Meals for father in breaks from work (7)
- Play Told reviewed with expertise (7)
- Cheerful boy and aunt played together (7)
- Most inexpensive hat priced wrongly (4,5)
- Strange how mill-race ends in the lake (5)
- Hard-hearted king whose widow was merry (5)
- Move to the middle and compromise (2,4-5)
- Reptile giving a girl a lot of trouble (9)
- Italian capital has nothing for Juliet's husband (5)
- Have a duty, even if it might be tough? (5)

DOWN

- Con man turns up in disguise (7)
- Discover a foreign planet (7)
- Scottish governor? (5)
- Boxer of cunning and power (9)



SOLUTIONS

ANSWER: AROUND THE WORLD
ANSWER: AROUND THE WORLD
ANSWER: AROUND THE WORLD
ANSWER: AROUND THE WORLD

Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Private, 3 Cool, 5 Bacteria, 8 Ode, 11 Reopened, 14 Lab, 18 Comic, 17 Sit, 18 Storm-centre, 21 Fate, 22 Alphabet, 24 Lord, 25 Narrower.
DOWN: 1 Pubs, 2 Infer, 3 Aide-de-camp, 4 Zed, 5 Octopus, 7 Leadily, 10 Flycatcher, 12 Venus, 13 Effluent, 15 Elongate, 19 Elbow, 20 Stir, 23 Lea.

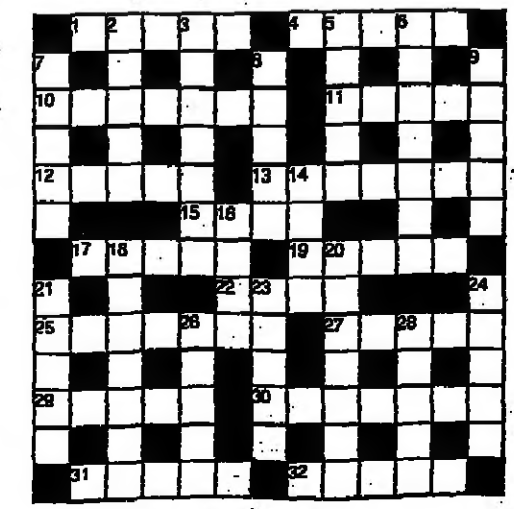
QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Caper (5)
- Amusing (5)
- Busybody (7)
- Mistake (5)
- Entertain (5)
- Agreed (7)
- Assent (4)
- Fashion (5)
- Deduce (5)
- Season (4)
- Instruction (7)
- Damp (5)
- Additional (5)
- Following (7)
- Viper (5)
- Stage whisper (5)

DOWN

- Lowest point (5)
- Illkit (7)
- Perfect (5)
- Rotary engine (7)
- Entertain (5)
- Banal (5)
- Commerce (5)
- Parched (4)
- Ban (4)
- Contaminated (7)
- Retribution (7)
- Preceptious (5)
- Interior (5)
- Platform (5)
- Angry (5)
- Epig poem (5)



Inside

Wood sets
strikeout
record

Page 18

Chelsea,
Stuttgart
prepare for
battle

Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisBird named
Coach of
the Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Bird of the Indiana Pacers today became just the fourth rookie coach in NBA history to win Coach of the Year honors.

Bird received 50 of a possible 116 votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters throughout the United States and Canada.

Utah's Jerry Sloan was second with 29 votes and Cleveland's Mike Fratello was third with 15.

Also receiving votes were Miami's Pat Riley (5); Phoenix's Danny Ainge and Seattle's George Karl (4); Boston's Rick Pitino and Chicago's Phil Jackson (3); and Orlando's Chuck Daly, New Jersey's John Calipari and New York's Jeff Van Gundy (1).

The other three first-year coaches to win the award were Harry Gallatin with St. Louis in 1962-63, Johnny Kerr with Chicago in 1966-67 and Mike Schuler with Portland in 1986-1987.

The trophy is named for Red Auerbach, who led the Boston Celtics to nine NBA championships from 1956-57 through 1966-67.

Mac. Haifa take State Cup in tense final

By DEREK FATTAL
and OFER ROMEN-ABELS

Maccabi Haifa captain Alon Mizrahi strode onto the podium last night at the National Stadium Ramat Gan to take the State Cup from President Ezer Weizman and lift it proudly in salute of the northern side 2-0 victory over Hapoel Jerusalem.

The 59th final, which went into extra time, attracted an attendance of more than 40,000 fans. It was an evenly balanced contest until late in the second period of extra time when Maccabi finally managed to get the better of the Hapoel defense thanks to goals by Sergei Belenchuk and Mizrahi, and so claim their place in the preliminary round of next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

Amid Haifa's jubilation at the final whistle there was a deep sense of relief, as Hapoel proved far tougher opponents than expected, and for significant portions of play the underdogs completely tamed the Maccabi midfield and front line.

The tactics employed by Hapoel coach Yossi Mizrahi proved to be spot on. From the outset his side managed to kill the pace of the game and with it most of Haifa's attacking inertia. Mizrahi was generally neutralized by the close marking of Moti Ohayon, while center half Stefan Mahai was in place to smother any lapses at the back.

Both sides found it difficult to register solid opportunities close to goal, as Hapoel's 3-5-2 formation packed the midfield and stifled attacking play.

The underdogs had the best chances in regulation time. In the 21st minute Hapoel's Hungarian-import Chava Horvath beat Nir Davidovich in the Haifa goal with a ripping shot from over 25 meters



Maccabi Haifa's Ibrahim Duro takes the ball cross Hapoel Jerusalem goalkeeper Liran Strauber.

(Brian Handler)

out only to see his attempt rattled against the crossbar and into touch.

Mizrahi was put through by Ibrahim Duro in the 49th minute during the Hapoel's best spell, but his shot ended in the side netting.

Maccabi's biggest scare came in the 68th minute, when Jerusalem's Assi Tubi managed to hold the ball in the area despite the attention of two defenders then backheel back to Shlomi Danino whose shot was

somehow saved by Davidovich.

As the match moved towards extra time both sides made tactical substitutions and within a minute of coming on, Dudi Stolper wasted another good chance for Haifa.

With the first fifteen minutes of extra time remaining undecided, the prospect of a penalty shoot-out loomed large. However, in the 108th minute Liran Strauber misjudged a run out of goal against

Rajib Baransi, and desperate defending was needed to clear his attempted lob away for a corner.

Duro's resulting corner kick in the 109th minute beat the Jerusalem defense and was fired home from the far post by Belenchuk.

Four minutes later with Hapoel stretched forward in search of an equalizer Duro took a lethal sprinting run at the Jerusalem back line

and after taking out three defenders passed to Mizrahi who flashed the ball into the net from three meters to seal his side's fifth Cup success, and the Haifa players' \$10,000-a-man winning bonus.

Exultant coach Daniel Brailowsky said in the midst of the Haifa's dressing-room celebrations, "When I was asked to take over (as caretaker manager) I promised to bring trophy and today

I delivered."

Marko Balbul who has already won seven trophies for his home city's side said, "this is the trophy I have been waiting for most."

Skipper Mizrahi was delighted to have scored the second goal of the game.

"I hope this is the last goal I score for an Israeli club. I hope to move on to a European club next season," he said.

On the losing side, coach Mizrahi blamed his team's defeat on a cruel and unnecessary late goal that completely shattered his players' morale and killed off the game.

"Our plan was to try and cancel Maccabi Haifa's game by bolstering the midfield and we almost succeeded," the disconsolate coach said. "Our players at the back did an excellent job but it is a shame that their colleagues up front did not rise to the occasion."

Haifa name
new coach

Maccabi Haifa's president Ya'acov Shabar announced today that the club will convene a meeting with the players and the coaching staff to take stock of the long campaign and discuss future prospects.

Next season's coaching staff will include new coach Czech Dusan Orin who is currently coaching in Dubai. It is still unclear whether caretaker coach Daniel Brailowsky will stay on under Orin next season.

Following the qualification for the European Cup Winners' Cup, Orin has already called for a resumption of training on June 21. D.F.

Shaq attack turns defensive as playoff pressure mounts

By SCOTT HOWARD-COOPER

There Shaquille O'Neal goes again, spending more valuable time on things other than free throws.

It's another film this time. A

compilation actually, to be seen by a very small audience, though at least he should be used to that last part by now. Check out the excerpts:

• Vin Baker being shut down from the left post.

• Vin Baker being shut down from the right post.

• Vin Baker being thwarted from most any spot on the court in an attempt to use what should be superior quickness to get around O'Neal.

By now we know that the Seattle SuperSonics can look at these game films and one-on-one edits and any other breakdowns all they want and come up with few solutions. They can watch and still not develop a counter for O'Neal, who has averaged 30.5 points and 9.8 rebounds and shot 61.3 percent and dramatically steered the course of these Western Conference semifinals with his...

Defense? Seriously. Baker, an all-star, has gone from 19.2 points and 54.2 percent shooting in the

regular season to 14 points and 44.8 percent, and the Lakers have gone from losing the opener to winning the next three and possibly winning the best-of-seven series last night at KeyArena.

Because O'Neal, an improving defender anyway, has, for the first time in his career, been nearly as much a force in stopping people as he has in stomping them.

In the playoffs, O'Neal has kicked it up another notch. His 2.40 blocks a game during the regular season, good for eighth in the league, went to 2.50 in the first round against the Portland Trail Blazers and now are at 3.09 as the Lakers have a 3-1 lead against the SuperSonics, all while his offensive production has also increased. (Washington Post)

Senators
beat Caps

KANATA, Ontario (AP) — Daniel Alfredsson notched his second hat trick of the Stanley Cup playoffs as the Ottawa Senators rebounded from two straight losses to Washington and beat the Capitals 4-3 Monday night.

Frustrated in the first two games of the Eastern Conference semifinal by the stunning goaltending of Washington's Olaf Kolzig, the Senators scored three power-play goals and held on for a crucial victory in a series that had seemed to be rapidly slipping away.

Game 4 is today at the Corel Centre, where the Senators have not lost in four playoff games.

Alfredsson scored all three of his goals in the first period to take over the goal-scoring lead in the playoffs with seven.

And they came against Kolzig, a goaltender who had stopped 292 of the 308 shots he had faced in eight previous playoff games.

Senators goalie Damian Rhodes, who made 14 saves, saved the game with a dazzling pad stop on Richard Zednick with nine seconds left and Kolzig off for an extra attacker.

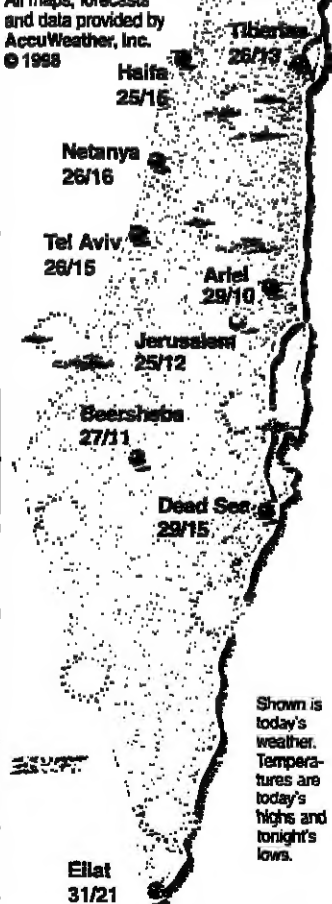
Stars 1, Oilers 0 (OT) Benoit Hogue scored at 13:07 of overtime to lift visiting Dallas to a hard-fought victory over Edmonton.

Hogue lifted a high wrist shot over the left shoulder of Oilers goaltender Curtis Joseph to give the Stars a 2-1 lead in the best-of-7 Western Conference semifinal series. Game 4 will be today at the Northlands Coliseum.

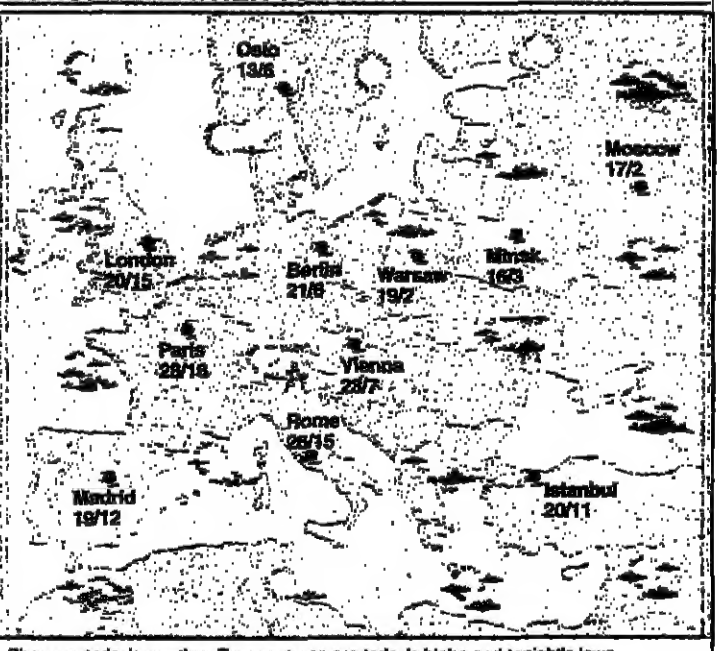
"The goal came when Oilers defenseman Janne Niinimaa — who has been a source of strength for Edmonton — botched a clearing attempt from his own corner.

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low
Amman	23/8	10/5	23/8	13/5	23/8
Beersheba	27/8	11/2	27/8	13/5	27/8
Dead Sea	23/8	10/5	23/8	13/5	23/8
Elat	31/8	21/7	33/1	23/7	33/1
Haifa	25/15	23/13	25/15	23/13	25/15
Jerusalem	25/12	23/10	25/12	23/10	25/12
Netanya	25/15	23/13	25/15	23/13	25/15
Tel Aviv	25/15	23/13	25/15	23/13	25/15
Thessalon	25/15	23/13	25/15	23/13	25/15

Weather (W): sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, H-hazy, drizzle, rain, snow, sleet, snow, fog.

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low	High/Low
Amsterdam	27/8	14/5	24/7	12/3	23/7
Beijing	31/8	16/1	29/4	15/9	29/4
Bombay	21/7	6/3	19/6	9/4	21/7
Buenos Aires	29/4	19/1	27/9	13/5	24/7
Calcutta	27/8	13/5	28/2	13/5	29/4
Chicago	25/1	14/7	29/4	18/1	30/8
Frankfurt	25/1	9/4	23/7	9/4	19/6
Hong Kong	32/8	26/7	31/8	25/7	30/8
Johannesburg	21/7	25/8	22/1	23/6	17/2
London	20/8	15/5	22/1	16/9	22/1
Los Angeles	19/6	12/3	23/7	10/3	25/7
Moscow	25/1	15/9	25/7	12/3	23/7
Mumbai	30/8	19/6	29/4	14/7	29/4
New York City	19/6	12/3	23/7	10/3	25/7
Paris	17/2	23/1	11/2	23/6	24/7
Rio de Janeiro	27/1	35/7	18/4	5/1	19/6
Sydney	30/8	24/7	28/2	27/9	27/8
Tokyo	22/1	17/2	23/7	10/3	25/7
Toronto	17/2	11/2	23/7	10/3	25/7
Vienna	23/7	7/4	18/4	9/4	19/6
Washington	19/6	25/8	14/7	4/3	19/6
Zurich	23/7	12/3	25/7	11/2	23/7

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